

Big quake in Japan kills two

TOKYO (AFP) — A major earthquake measuring 7.5 on the Richter scale hit northern Japan on Wednesday killing at least two people and injuring scores. Roads were closed and trains stopped while several small tidal waves hit the coast, reports said. The two dead were in Hachinohe, in northeast of the main Honshu island, where the quake was most strongly felt. The floor of a pinball parlor in the town, 500 kilometers north of Tokyo, collapsed, trapping eight people. Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) said. More than 85 other people were treated in city hospitals for cuts and burns. NHK said. A quake of 7.5 on the Richter scale can cause heavy, widespread damage, according to experts. Wednesday's tremor, which occurred at 9:19 p.m. (12:19 GMT), registered six on the Japan scale of intensity ranging from one to seven. Six could damage many wooden structure houses, cause serious landslides and leave cracks in concrete, according to experts. The quake registered five in Morioka, Aomori and Mutsu.

Volume 19 Number 5805

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر باللغة العربية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية الرأي

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29-30, 1994, RAJAB 26-27, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Battle for Grozny on

GROZNY (Agencies) — The Russian army launched a concerted attack on the Chechen capital Grozny from three directions on Wednesday after bloody bombing raids that destroyed an orphanage.

The Russians, using helicopter gunships, warplanes, tanks and Grad rockets, assaulted the Khankala suburbs in eastern Grozny and the strategic Karpinski hill in the west of the republic's capital just before dawn.

The storming of Grozny has begun. They want to take the city, but they won't, said Chechen government spokesman Movladi Udugov at the heavily guarded presidential building.

The attack was the first in the Grozny suburbs since President Boris Yeltsin sent troops on Dec. 11 to crush the republic's three-year independence drive.

A Russian division advanced three kilometres from the east and was fighting with Chechen forces around the former military airport in Khankala, about five kilometres east of central Grozny, said Shamil Beasyev, commander at the Karpinski front.

But the Chechen line was holding and the 10,000-man Russian force was unable to move, harassed by Chechens on all sides, he said.

"They won't come through tonight," he said as multiple Grad rockets roared over and crashed into nearby positions, sending up plumes of black smoke.

A member of Russia's influential security council said that Moscow's troops would gradually drive rebel fighters out of Grozny but denied the city would be stormed.

"Grozny will be freed from illegal armed forces, mercenaries and criminals. It will not be stormed, but it will be liberated," security council secretary Oleg Lobov told a news conference. "The liberation of Grozny will be carried out step by step, dis-

tributed by district."

Mr. Lobov did not say whether troops would actually enter Grozny or use other means to drive forces loyal to Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Russian officials previously said the armed forces would blockade the city from the north, east and west while leaving roads to the south open.

Mr. Lobov said Russian troops had taken the key military airfield at Khankala; just six kilometres southwest of Grozny.

The Chechens, camouflaged in white against the snow, seemed in high spirits and operated in small groups of about 12.

All were armed with anti-tank rocket propelled grenades, which could cause havoc among the Russian armour if it advanced another kilometre into the streets of the suburb.

One group darting through deserted houses in the front-line shouted "Allahu Akbar" before disappearing.

Helicopters, the thunder of tanks and small arms could be heard continuously over the battle zone. The air stank with the smell of burning and explosions.

Two Chechen tanks and anti-aircraft guns mounted on armoured cars swung around from one end of the frontline to the other, highlighting the Chechens' lack of heavy weaponry.

"All the Russians use is snipers and tanks. We can only fight infantry," said 31-year-old Chechen soldier, Ruslan Abalelov.

Explosions of heavy guns and rockets could also be heard in the west of the city near Karpinski hill, which was still in Chechen hands, the government said. This could not be immediately confirmed.

The hill, about five kilometres from the centre, would give Russian gunners a

(Continued on page 3)



REGENT VISITS WIHDAT: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday visits Al Wihdat for a first-hand review of the living conditions of the residents of the area (see page 3) (Petra photo)

Fahd, Assad and Mubarak meet upon Syria's behest

ALEXANDRIA (AFP) — Arab leaders on Wednesday held a mini-summit here to close ranks and stop Israel exploiting divisions among Arab countries in the Middle East peace process.

Presidents Hafez Al Assad and Hosni Mubarak of Syria and Egypt met with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, said Egyptian Information Minister Saif Al Sherif.

The issues under discussion included the eventual return of Iraq to the Arab fold, four years after it was cold-shouldered for invading Kuwait in August 1990, a Syrian source said.

Damascus wants "an international reconciliation because maintaining the status quo with Iraq weakens the Arabs," a member of the Syrian delegation said, asking not to be named.

"That's why wanted the summit to be held as soon as possible in Alexandria," he added.

The three leaders were due to spend the night in the Mediterranean port city after working dinner and the talks could continue on Thursday, security services said.

Mr. Sherif said the summit was aimed at "coordination of efforts to clear the atmosphere and create Arab solidarity."

A member of the Syrian delegation said the meeting was to push for "a more solid Arab Nation."

The talks took place just two days after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin travelled to Oman, becoming the Jewish state's first head of government to visit a Gulf Arab state.

"Syria is unhappy with the normalisation process between Israel and several Arab countries at a time when there is no progress in

(Continued on page 7)

themselves," a Western diplomat in Cairo told AFP.

Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid was also invited to take part in the summit, which has not been the case in previous talks between Arab leaders.

A European diplomat in Cairo said the mini-summit reflected Arab concern over Mr. Rabin's Muscat visit.

"The meeting looks like a rejection front. Mr. Rabin's visit to Oman has scared them," he said.

In Riyadh, a Saudi official said Mr. Assad himself called for the meeting to complain that Arab countries were moving too fast towards normalisation with Israel.

"Syria is unhappy with the normalisation process between Israel and several Arab countries at a time when there is no progress in

(Continued on page 7)

Royal Falcons pilot dies in crash

By Rana Husseini

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Bial Hamid Shreideh, a pilot of the Royal Falcons, Jordan's national aerobatics team, died in a plane crash at Marka airport while practising on Wednesday.

A statement released by the Armed Forces to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the plane crashed at approximately 1 p.m.

According to an eyewitness, "the plane just dove to the ground."

"The manoeuvring needs a certain height to overshoot, but he (the pilot) went below the height and could not recover and crashed," the eyewitness told the Jordan Times.

The eyewitness said the lightweight single-seat EXTRA-300 plane fell 50 metres from the civil defence units based at the airport and was engulfed by fire.

"It took less than five minutes to put out the fire, but Captain Shreideh was burnt beyond recognition," the witness added.

Another eyewitness who was sitting in one of the offices at the airport at the time of the crash said that he heard a plane zooming in the area, and "all of a sudden I heard a loud explosion."

"When I went to check, I saw a ball of flames beside one of the airport hangars," the witness said.

The witness added that the only part that was left from the crash was the plane's vertical stabiliser, "and everything else was tangled together in one metal ball."

Airport sources said that the cause of the crash was under investigation and that a team will be formed to investigate the incident.

Experts describe the EXTRA-300 as a superb aircraft suited to the intricate manoeuvring demands of world-class aerobatics.

Capt. Shreideh served as an airforce pilot before joining the Royal Falcons.

Capt. Shreideh, who was 29, is survived by his wife and a new-born daughter.

It was the second reported disaster involving the Royal Falcons. On July 12, 1992, two Royal Falcons pilots were killed in a plane crash during an air show in Amman. The two pilots were Sherif Rakhan Ghazi and team mate pilot Mohammad Oudeh.

Israel continues settlement work despite protests

EL KHADER, occupied West Bank (Agencies) —

Construction workers pressed on with a project to expand a settlement near Bethlehem on the occupied West Bank Wednesday despite Palestinian protests and a government review.

A government spokesman said Foreign Minister Shimon Peres had informed Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat that "the government would discuss the suspension" of work at Ephrat when it met Monday.

An announcement over Israel Radio that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had ordered the suspension of work resulted from a "confusion," the spokesman said.

The project could not be stopped immediately because it was privately financed and taking place on land which had been allocated to the settlement, the spokesman added.

Behar Berdugo, adviser to Mr. Peres, said he told Mr. Arafat the bulldozers would stop building until the Israeli cabinet could reconsider the matter early next week.

Israel crews went on bulldozing the land for the settlement on a hill near Bethlehem between the Palestinian village of El Kader and

the settlement.

On Tuesday, Israeli soldiers and police forcibly removed protesters from the land. Palestinians view as a provocation the more than 100,000 Jews living in settlements scattered among the 1.2 million Palestinians of the West Bank.

Four bulldozers, two of them equipped with giant pneumatic drills, flattened the stony ground on a hill five kilometres south of Bethlehem Wednesday ahead of the construction of 500 new settler homes.

The Palestinians have warned the expansion of the settlement could wreck the negotiations on extending self-rule on the West Bank.

Some 300 Palestinians and leftwing Israelis demonstrated at the site Wednesday.

"We are not fighting against the Jews but against the Israeli government, which promises us peace on the one hand, but on the other presses on with settlements," said Naim Abu Suwai, aged 60.

"We'll stay here until they stop," vowed Mustapha Imran, 45, a supporter of the Islamic Resistance Movement.

Israel crews went on bulldozing the land for the settlement on a hill near Bethlehem between the Palestinian village of El Kader and

(Continued on page 3)

Deal on self-rule council election is near — Arafat

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are close

to sealing an accord on elections to a Palestinian autonomy council but its size is still in dispute.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said in comments published Wednesday.

"Most of the issues connected with the election process for the autonomy council have been settled. Only one point remains to be finalised: the number of council members," Mr. Arafat told the Egyptian weekly Al Masa'a.

"This will be tackled at my next meeting with (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin," he said.

Last week Israel and the PLO agreed that further talks on Israel's army redeployment away from urban centres on the West Bank would be held between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin.

The presence of Israeli police "would not contradict the Oslo agreement on Palestinian self-rule, which envisages an army redeployment away from West Bank towns," he said.

"Israeli and Palestinian police could be posted at police stations in West Bank towns and hence provide security for Israelis," Mr. Shahal added.

Some 120,000 Jewish settlers

rule have been suspended since Dec. 16.

Israel has been increasingly reluctant to commit itself to a West Bank redeployment following the killings of 45 Israelis since the launch of self-rule in May.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal said Wednesday Israeli police could provide better security than soldiers in areas of the occupied West Bank due to be handed over to the Palestinian Authority.

"Police and border guards under police authority could provide better public security and traffic control than soldiers on roads used by Palestinians and Israelis in the West Bank," Mr. Shahal said.

The presence of Israeli police "would not contradict the Oslo agreement on Palestinian self-rule, which envisages an army redeployment away from West Bank towns," he said.

"Israeli and Palestinian police could be posted at police stations in West Bank towns and hence provide security for Israelis," Mr. Shahal added.

Some 120,000 Jewish settlers

(Continued on page 7)

France probes whether hijackers had help

PARIS (Agencies) — French authorities on Wednesday began investigating whether Algerians who hijacked a plane in Algiers over Christmas had accomplices in France.

The Paris public prosecutor's office started legal action against "persons unknown" for complicity in the hijacking, justice sources said.

The four hijackers were killed when police stormed the Airbus 300 airliner in Marseille on Monday at the end of a 54-hour drama.

The opening of the legal file was entrusted to Investigating Magistrate Jean-Louis Bruguiere, who has handled France's major anti-terrorism cases for the past decade, the sources said.

The legal move was not

automatic and was taken because authorities had indications, which they did not divulge, that there may have been accomplices aboard.

The legal move gave no indication whether possible accomplices were on the aircraft or on the ground in France.

Pressure for tighter security, specifically on transport links with Algeria, a former French colony, was fuelled in particular by the slaying of three French priests, as well as a Belgian, in Algeria on Tuesday, within 24 hours of the end of the hijack drama (see page 12).

The GIA claimed responsibility for the killings.

The GIA said in a statement faxed to news organisations that the priests died as part of a campaign of "annihilation and physical liquidation of Christian crusaders."

The group, which has emerged as one of Algeria's most hardline Muslim fundamentalist factions, said the priests were killed after four of its own "soldiers" died in the hijack.

The four were members of the same unit that killed the priests, it added.

The Airbus hijack marked the first time the civil war in Algeria, a former colony of France, had crossed over onto the French mainland, and Paris is concerned that it should not set a precedent.

French nationals, interests and institutions have for more than two years been targeted in Algeria by Muslim fundamentalist groups who accuse Paris of supporting the Aljami regime.

On Tuesday it was reported that the four had been killed.

(Continued on page 7)

Census shows 4.095m people live in Jordan

By Amy Henderson
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Preliminary results of Jordan's 1994 census show that 4,095,579 people are living in the Kingdom — 3,779,118 of them Jordanians, according to the Department of Statistics (the remaining 316,461 are foreigners in the Kingdom). However, they have not yet been categorised.

The preliminary results released by the department late Tuesday broke down the population by governorate and sex. According to the department, there are 1,917,601 male and 1,861,517 female Jordanians. Statistics also showed that family size has decreased since the last population census in 1979: Today's average Jordanian

members compared to 6.7 in 1979. Officials also said that Jordan had seen a high population growth rate — 4.35 per cent — despite a drop in fertility rate, which they attribute to forced migration, particularly as a result of the Gulf crisis. Until now, it is estimated that 10 per cent of Jordan's population is comprised of returnees from the Gulf. Further census results should tell whether this is accurate.

These statistics were released Tuesday night via the Jordan News Agency, Petra, following the cancellation earlier in the day of a scheduled press conference at the Department of Statistics. According to a department official, the press conference was cancelled under the

equitable.

Government officials

U.S.: Iraqi regime behind people's suffering

WASHINGTON (USA) — Saddam Hussein is cynically manipulating the Iraqi people, systematically refusing to take advantage of the humanitarian options available under the United Nations sanctions, and blaming the U.N. for the people's suffering, a senior State Department official says.

Food and medicine are exempt from the U.N. sanctions regime, David Litt, director of the office of northern Gulf affairs pointed out. "There is no doubt the Iraqi people are suffering... But it is not due to the U.N."

Between January and August of this year, the U.N. Sanctions Committee approved the shipment of some \$2 billion worth of food and medical supplies to Iraq, Mr. Litt said. The committee, which is made up of Security Council members, is "very liberal" in approving humanitarian exports; food and medicine do not require U.N. approval at all, he noted.

The problem is not the Sanctions Committee, Mr. Litt stressed, but Saddam Hussein, "who has chosen to spend Iraq's money on such items as refurbishing palaces, crushing his internal opponents, and mobilizing troops to threaten the Kuwaiti border."

Apart from the humanitarian supplies which the Sanctions Committee oversees, Iraq has other options available to it, Mr. Litt said.

U.N. Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 permit Iraq to sell up to \$1.6 billion worth of oil to purchase food, medicine and other humanitarian goods. Yet despite the option, "Iraq has chosen not to implement those resolutions," Mr. Litt said.

Yet a third means of obtaining humanitarian relief is available to Iraq: through the U.N. agencies and international non-governmental organisations. For example, Mr. Litt said, the U.N. has set up a \$200-\$300 million programme to carry out humanitarian projects there. However, since Iraq restricts U.N. and NGO access within the country, international donors are unwilling to fund projects there because they cannot ensure their donations will reach their intended destinations or intended beneficiaries.

As it is, the U.N., NGOs, and bilateral donors can carry on their programmes in an unrestricted manner only in the northern three governorates of the country, out of Baghdad's control, he said.

At the same time, the government has imposed an embargo of food and humanitarian supplies on much of northern Iraq and the southern marshlands. His actions have been "particularly abhorrent" in those regions, Mr. Litt said. Human rights violations there "occur on a broad scale" and many incidents of murder, torture and disappearances have been "very credibly" documented by the U.N. special rapporteur on Iraq.

In the past few years, the army has destroyed about 90 per cent of the southern marshlands, a region where marsh Arabs have survived for thousands of years. Of the 250,000 people who lived in the region in 1990, fewer than 30,000 remain today. Iraqi forces have drained the marshes "on a massive scale," Mr. Litt said, destroyed the grasses and trees, and moved Iraqi armour and artillery units in afterward to attack villages suspected of harbouring opponents. No international monitors or relief workers have been allowed to enter the region for years, he added.

In northern Iraq, the U.N. special rapporteur has found evidence that the genocide convention may have been violated, many tens of thousands of Kurds have fled and many more have disappeared. Middle East Watch, the international human rights organisation, calculates the number of Kurds who have disappeared at 70,000-100,000. Mr. Litt said.

Iraq has now complied with one aspect of one of the U.N. resolutions, formally recognising Kuwait's borders and sovereignty. However, Mr. Litt said, the U.N. requires the country to account for all the Kuwaitis and third country nationals missing in action since the Gulf War, as well as return the property looted and stolen at that time. These resolutions, of course, come in addition to dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction — its nuclear, biological and chemical weapons programmes — and preventing their regeneration.



PALESTINIAN PROTEST: An old Palestinian sits on the land where Israeli bulldozers are waiting to start working at the hillside south of Bethlehem, where villagers from El Khader and Israel Peace Now activists are trying to prevent Israeli settlers from starting constructions that will enlarge the Jewish settlement of Epherata (see page one) (AFP photo)

Turkey bomb sale not decided — U.S.

WASHINGTON (Agencies)

— The U.S. State Department said Tuesday that it had not yet reached a decision on whether to license the proposed sale of cluster bombs to Turkey.

"No such decision has been made," David Johnson, a department spokesman, told reporters. He gave no indication when the matter might be decided.

Alian Techsystems, headquartered in Hopkins, Minnesota, signed a contract with the Turkish Defence Ministry on June 21 to supply 493 CBU-87 cluster bombs to Turkey, according to the Human Rights Watch arms project.

The project, in a report being released Wednesday and in a letter to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, said it was deeply concerned that Turkey would use such cluster bombs indiscriminately in its conflict with Kurdish rebels, with "devastating effects on the civilian population."

Each CBU-87 can saturate an area the size of a football field with 202 small, individual bomblets. The State Department must issue a license before such a sale can go forward.

In its letter to Mr. Christopher, Human Rights Watch also urged tighter controls on future U.S. arms transfers to Turkey. It wants to see written guarantees that the arms would be used "only in NATO contingencies or with the prior approval of the U.S. government."

The Turkish government has long been fighting Kurdish guerrillas in the eastern part of the country. Human Rights Watch accused the Turks of attacking Kurdish villages.

Wamik Tan, first secretary at the Turkish embassy, called the organisation's statement an "absurd allegation" put forward to poison relations between the United States and Turkey.

"We do not use weapons for anything but NATO purposes," he said.

The State Department "should under no circumstances approve this license request," said the letter to Mr. Christopher.

"We are deeply concerned

that Turkey will use these cluster bombs indiscriminately in its conflict with the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), with devastating effects on the civilian population."

The Turkish government has a well-documented record of failing to discriminate between civilian and military targets," it continued. It accused Turkey of "systematic burning of depopulating 1,400 towns and villages and using torture and terror against civilians in campaigns against the Kurdish insurgency and other domestic enemies."

Approval of the cluster bomb sale "would be particularly objectionable... at a time when Turkey's human rights record is deteriorating and its military campaign against the PKK is escalating," the letter said. It added that approval would undercut recent U.S. statements of concern about Turkish human rights problems including mistreatment of the Kurdish minority and the sentencing to prison of eight Kurdish members of parliament.

The project, in a report being released Wednesday and in a letter to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, said it was deeply concerned that Turkey would use such cluster bombs indiscriminately in its conflict with Kurdish rebels, with "devastating effects on the civilian population."

Each CBU-87 can saturate an area the size of a football field with 202 small, indi-

Rabbani's truce offer still in air

KABUL (AFP) — Rival factions have still to reply to the unilateral Kabul ceasefire offered by forces loyal to Afghan President Bushrahan Rabbani, an official spokesman said Wednesday.

"No clear and official agreement regarding a ceasefire has been received from the other side yet," said a Defence Ministry spokesman.

He said a special delegation had been assigned for talks with all the opposition factions, to discuss the delicate question of the transfer of power from Mr. Rabbani to an interim governing body.

"We are now waiting to see

what the United Nations is going to do," he said, as head of UNMAG, a mission for Afghanistan. Mahmoud Mestiri arrived in Pakistan to resume his peace efforts.

"It is time for them to cease looking from the sidelines and get into direct contact with the people of Kabul," he said.

A Foreign Ministry official said Mr. Mestiri, who reached Islamabad Tuesday, was expected to travel to

He said Mr. Mestiri might meet opposition Heribat-Islami faction leader Gulbadin Hekmatyar in the case of provincial capital Jalalabad, before coming to Kabul to see Mr. Rabbani.

A permanent ceasefire was declared unilaterally Tuesday by pro-Rabbani forces, and although there were no major clashes Wednesday skirmishing was witnessed along the south Kabul frontlines.

"We have received orders not to shoot unless we are severely harassed by the enemy's fire," a pro-Rabbani front-line commander told AFP.

Behind south Kabul's Demirzai Square two mortar bombs fired by rival factions were seen exploding in the deserted residential blocks and there was a brisk exchange of light and heavy weapons fire.

Civilian traffic to the south Kabul areas controlled by Mr. Rabbani's rival Heribat-Wadat Shura faction was not interrupted by the shooting.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fatah attacks PFLP in Lebanon camp

SIDON (AFP) — Militants from Yasser Arafat's Fatah group attacked members of the rival Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) late Tuesday killing one person and wounding another, Palestinian sources reported. There was no immediate reason for the attack which occurred in the 'Ain Al Hilweh camp on the eastern outskirts of the southern part of Sidon in South Lebanon. But a key Arafat opponent in the camp, Musa'ab Mustafa, blamed "Israeli agents" for the attack. According to Palestinian sources, a group of Fatah militants hurled a rocket-propelled grenade and unleashed several rounds of gunfire at a PFLP office killing one of its occupants and wounding another. Earlier this month the PFLP and another Damascus-based group, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), announced a decision to merge their military leadership. Both groups are staunchly opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace process and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) self-rule accord with the Jewish state. Six people were killed and 13 others wounded in inter-Palestinian fighting last month in 'Ain Al Hilweh, the largest of 11 Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. After the fighting Mr. Arafat appointed a new Fatah leadership in Lebanon aimed at preventing further bloodshed.

Ancient falcon cemetery found in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian archaeologists have found hundreds of mummified falcons buried ritually at a cemetery in the eastern Nile delta in the first millennium B.C. Ali Hassan, director of excavations at the Supreme Antiquities Council, said the cemetery was at Tel Abu Yassin, about 20 kilometres from the town of Zagazig and an important burial place in the 4th and 5th centuries B.C. Cemeteries for mummified falcons are known from the western delta and near the southern town of Edfu, centre of the cult of the falcon god Horus, but the new one is an area better known for the worship of sacred bulls. Ancient Egyptian priests kept some of the animals associated with their god and gave them a ritual mummification when they died. Apart from those for falcons, Egypt has cemeteries for mummified bulls, cats, ibises, baboons and crocodiles. The government newspaper Al Abram said the falcon burials were of at least two types — in limestone sarcophagi by the rich, or loose on shelves by the middle classes and the poor. The rich also preserved falcon eggs in earthenware vessels placed close to the sarcophagi, it added.

Iraqis, Syrians arrested in furniture truck

WARSAW (AFP) — Seventeen Iraqi and Syrian nationals were arrested after they were found hidden in a truck travelling from the Belarus capital Minsk to Sweden, police said. The illegal immigrants were found Sunday at the Polish frontier post of Kakuky, hidden behind furniture carried in the truck which police decided to search after observing that its load had been tampered with. The driver, of unspecified nationality, and his two Swedish assistants were arrested, and the illegal immigrants sent back to Belarus, police said. An official report by the Polish Labour Ministry Tuesday said between 100,000 and 150,000 immigrants, mostly from Russia, Belarus, Lithuania and Ukraine, were working illegally in Poland.

Turkey asks Bonn to probe imminent deaths

BONN (R) — Turkey formally asked Germany on Tuesday to investigate whether a weekend fire that killed a Turkish national and his son was started by right-wing extremists. A Turkish embassy spokesman in Bonn said the mission had made the request in a diplomatic note to the Bonn government after the blaze, which police described as accidental. "The German government is asked to investigate the case because in the past 64 per cent of arson cases were attributed to attackers who remained unknown," the spokesman told reporters. "The German government was also asked to prevent the recurrence of similar cases," he added. No comment was immediately available from the German Foreign Ministry. The spokesman gave no explanation of why Turkey suspect... in Turks and other foreigners have been frequent... of neo-Nazi violence that has killed at least 30 people since 1990.

Iran report cites malnutrition, overeating

IRAN (R) — Malnutrition... the growth of 1 per cent of Iranian children under five while 20 per cent of the population face health hazards because they eat too much, according to a report published on Tuesday. Iran's Centre for Agricultural Studies and Economic Planning said the country's per capita food consumption was in line with international standards but distribution was lopsided. "Twenty-five per cent of children under five suffer from slow growth and their bodies are smaller than normal for their age," the centre said in its report quoted in Kar Va Kargar newspaper. "Twenty per cent of the people do not have access to enough food according to the standards of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation. Forty per cent eat more than they need and the health of 20 per cent is seriously threatened because of overeating," it said.

Ambassador reported due on hijacked flight

PARIS (R) — France's ambassador to Algiers had been due to travel on the Air France flight to Paris which was hijacked, the French weekly Le Canard Enchaîné said. The weekly said Ambassador Bernard Kessedjian was booked on Saturday's flight but decided to bring forward his trip by 48 hours. France had said two other embassy staff were on the flight. One of them, cook Yannick Beugnet, was shot dead by the hijackers. The 54-hour hijack, which started at Algiers airport, ended on Monday when French commandos stormed the plane, killing the hijackers and saving the lives of the 169 remaining hostages.

Afghan nightmare still haunts Russians

ice car to day after Soviet troops invaded in

style syndrome in Russian minds. A constant reminder is the sight of war veterans, disabled their wounds,

streets begging.

the armed forces, the situation has gone from bad to worse. After their retreat from Afghanistan, the Berlin Wall fell in November 1989 followed by the emancipation of the "fraternal" states of the Soviet bloc and then the breakup of the Soviet Union itself in 1991.

Next came the political crisis of late 1993, when the military hesitated a long time before siding with President Boris Yeltsin against rebellious members of parliament. The shock waves from all those catastrophes are still being felt.

The pullout from central and eastern Europe, completed this year, saw troops come back to Russia in degrading conditions, without decent lodgings available for them.

Accusations of corruption have been raining

down on superior officers, while the Defence Ministry has to fight inch by inch to ward off hefty cuts in its budget. The ministry wants 11,000 million rubles (\$32 billion) next year, but the 1995 draft budget is offering 4,500 million rubles (\$13 billion).

In this context of extreme financial austerity, the Afghan precedent is arousing worries about the cost of the Chechenya military intervention.

Past experience of such operations showed that "they call for the spending of enormous sums, which Russia is incapable of bearing for long," warned Alexander Piskunov, deputy chairman of the duma's (lower house of parliament) defence committee.

Silence was the order of the day in all ranks during the decade of the Afghan involvement. It was only at the end of 1989 that the air force, which has been killing dozens of civilians in bombing raids on the capital Grozny.

With all due respect to Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, another Afghan

veteran who is firmly among the hardliners on the Chechen issue, the Afghan nightmare will continue the military.

By constantly denouncing the presence of Afghan mujahedeen alongside Chechen forces, the government here is exacerbating those searing memories, while the Muslim Chechens are clearly delighted to brandish the spectre.

"Afghanistan destroyed the Soviet Union. Chechenya will destroy the Russian federation!" instead Chechen Deputy President Zelimkhan Yandarov.

The forces actually fighting on the ground there are from the Interior Ministry at the moment, the regular army being much more reluctant. An exception is the air force, which has been killing dozens of civilians in bombing raids on the capital Grozny.

With all due respect to Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, another Afghan

accident, the Russian air force has been killing dozens of civilians in bombing raids on the capital Grozny.

With all due respect to Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, another Afghan

accident, the Russian air force has been killing dozens of civilians in bombing raids on the capital Grozny.

With all due respect to Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, another Afghan

accident, the Russian air force has been killing dozens of civilians in bombing raids on the capital Grozny.

With all due respect to Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, another Afghan

accident, the Russian air force has been killing dozens of civilians in bombing raids on the capital Grozny.

With all due respect to Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, another Afghan

accident, the Russian air force has been killing dozens of civilians in bombing raids on the capital Grozny.

With all due respect to Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, another Afghan

accident, the Russian air force has been killing dozens of civilians in bombing raids on the capital Grozny.

With all due respect to Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, another Afghan

accident, the Russian air force has been killing dozens of civilians in bombing raids on the capital Grozny.

With all due respect to Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, another Afghan

accident, the Russian air force has been killing dozens of civilians in bombing raids on the capital Grozny.

With all due respect to Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, another Afghan

accident, the Russian air force has been killing dozens of civilians in bombing raids on the capital Grozny.

With all due respect to Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, another Afghan

accident, the Russian air force has been killing dozens of civilians in bombing raids on the capital Grozny.

With all due respect to Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, another Afghan

accident, the Russian air force has been killing dozens of civilians in bombing raids on the capital Grozny.

With all due respect to Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, another Afghan

accident, the Russian air force has been killing dozens of civilians in bombing raids on the capital Grozny.

With all due respect to Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, another Afghan

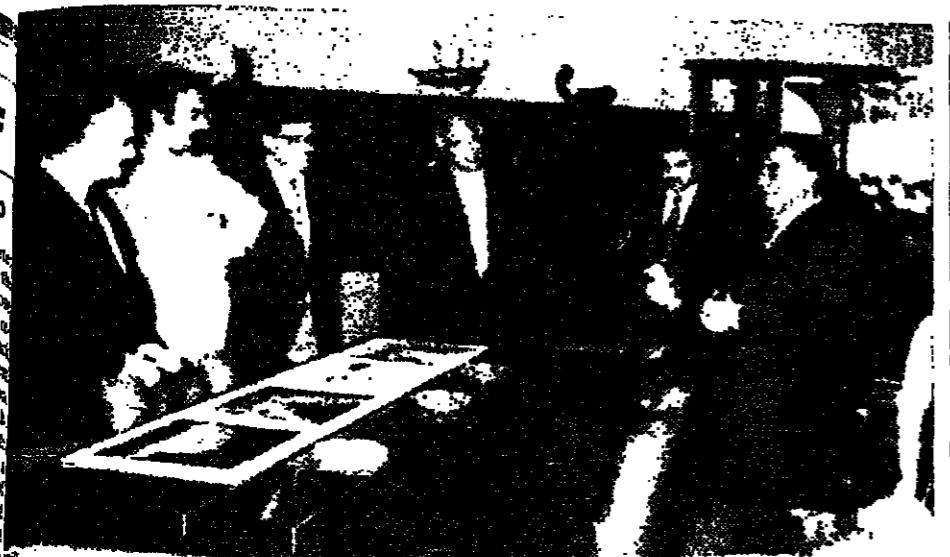
BRIEF

Lebanon camp

in Yasser Arafat's Fatah Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, sources said, was captured by the PLO in the area of Nahr al-Kalb in South Lebanon during a major Israeli attack. A Jordanian official said that the group had been captured by its occupants for the PFLP and was being held by Fatah. Both groups are engaged in peace negotiations, but have failed to reach an agreement. The PFLP has appointed a new leader, and the Fatah has appointed a new leader.

Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Wednesday listens to a briefing by

Amman Mayor Mamduh Abbadi (right) (Petra photo)



Regent directs authorities to speed up urban projects

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Wednesday instructed the concerned authorities to start implementing 14 urban development projects (11 in the Amman Governorate and the Zarqa) immediately.

Speaking during a tour of several districts within the Amman area, the Regent said that the concerned authorities should highlight the urban dimension in the process of designing municipal and urban development themes, taking care to integrate human heritage with the country's history and modern requirements.

Stressing the need to preserve the architectural style of Amman, the Regent said special attention should be given to the relationship between man and the environment.

Starting his tour at the Greater Amman Municipality, the Regent met Mayor Mamduh Abbadi who presented an outline of the project which entails the construction of the Amman town hall and municipality offices at Ras Al Ain district.

The Regent inspected the Seventh Circle bridge project on the Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA) highway and later called at Al Wibda and inspected several homes and stores and met with families at their homes.

He also visited Al Mahtara district where Mayor Abbadi explained the infrastructure work there. The Regent urged municipality to speed

up the implementation of this project as well as housing projects at the urban development area in Wihdat camp.

The Regent was accompanied by his adviser Mohammad Saqqaf, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Tawfiq Kheirishan, Dr. Abbadi and Housing and Urban Development Director-General Yousef Hiyasat.

Referring to the projects in Zarqa, the Regent said that expansion of the city should extend eastwards. He also stressed the need for cooperation with the Armed Forces, the Zarqa Municipality and the Zarqa governor's office in executing such expansions.

Stressing the need to pre-

serve the architectural style of Amman, the Regent said special attention should be



Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan Wednesday distributes diplomas to students of the Madaba Mosaic School (Petra photo)

Second group of mosaic restorers graduates from Madaba school

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of students Wednesday received diplomas from Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan upon completion of a three-month training course on restoring and renovating mosaics.

The graduation ceremony, held at the Madaba Mosaic School, was attended by Italian Ambassador to Jordan, Ambassador to Jordan, Ronald Bertoni, and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Director in Jordan William Oliver.

In an address to the gathering, Dr. Adwan noted that the art of mosaics was developed in this area many centuries ago and has been reintroduced and revived

through the continuous efforts and dedication of Father Piccirillo, a renowned scholar in this field who works and resides at the Coptic monastery at Mount Nebo.

The minister thanked the Italian government, USAID and the American Centre for Oriental Research (ACOR) for their contributions to the establishment of the Madaba Mosaic School.

For his part, Mr. Oliver said that since 1991 USAID has been actively involved in tourism development of Madaba and the surrounding areas.

The Madaba Mosaic School is administered jointly by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Tourism.

NEWS IN BRIEF

King, Regent condole Indian president

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for His Majesty King Hussein, the King's advisor Mohammad Rasoul Kilani Wednesday visited the Indian embassy in Amman to offer condolences over the death of former Indian President Giani Zail Singh who passed away Sunday. Also Wednesday, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, sent a cable to Indian President Shanker Dayal Sharma condoling him over the death of Mr. Singh. Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali also delegated the director of his office Aktham Qusous to visit the Indian embassy to offer condolences.

Regent congratulates Nepal

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday sent a cable to King Birendra Bir Bikram

Shah Dev of Nepal to congratulate him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on his country's national day. Prince Hassan wished King Birendra good health and happiness and the Nepalese people further progress and prosperity.

Malaysia, Jordan conclude civil aviation talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Malaysia Wednesday concluded talks in Amman on enhancing bilateral relations in civil aviation and air transport. The two sides decided at the meeting, which was co-chaired by Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Director General Ahmad Jweibet and Malaysian Transport Minister Wan Yacob, to organise technical cooperation between Jordan and Malaysia and to increase the number of flights by Royal Jordanian (RJ) to and from Kuala Lumpur to three flights a week. The Malaysian delegation, headed by Mr. Yacob, arrived in Amman Monday on a several-day visit.

Industrialists to renew Iraqi contacts

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A delegation of Jordanian industrialists will visit Iraq in early January to renew contacts and seek to boost Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation in industry, an official of the Amman Chamber of Industry said Wednesday.

The visit will be the latest in ongoing exchanges between Iraqi and Jordanian businessmen as signs are emerging in the international scene of a possible relaxation of the United Nations sanctions imposed on Iraq following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

A team of Jordanian importers and exporters paid a visit to Iraq in November under the umbrella of the Jordan Businessmen's Association (JBA) and held talks with senior Iraqi trade and industry officials as well as the Iraqi private sector.

Businessmen described that visit as highly fruitful and

said contacts launched by the JBA delegation members were being followed up and translated into increased Jordanian exports of foodstuffs and medicine, which are exempt from the sanctions.

They also said that the visit also paved the way for enhanced trade links between Jordanian and Iraqi private sectors in goods and services as and when the United Nations Security Council decides to relax the embargo on Iraq.

Waleed Al Khatib, director-general of the Chamber of Industry, said the delegation which would visit Iraq Jan. 2-7 would have about 50 members, including business as well as representatives of the chamber.

The delegation, which will be headed by the president of the chamber, Khalid Abu Hassan, will include manufacturers of foodstuffs and medicine as well as other products with a view to pre-



Khalid Abu Hassan

paring the ground for increased Jordanian exports to Iraq.

Mr. Khatib said the delegation's visit was in response to invitations extended by the Iraqi Federation of Industries and Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

"The team would hold talks with senior Iraqi gov-

ernment officials as well as the private sector and explore means to enhance cooperation and business relations," Mr. Khatib told the Jordan Times.

Jordanian businessmen hope that the visit, which comes amid a flurry of contacts between Iraqi and non-Arab businessmen, mostly from Europe and the Far East, would contribute to reaffirming Jordanian-Iraqi trade and industrial cooperation after a period of stagnation.

Many businessmen who held themselves back because of government constraints on trade links in goods not exempt from the sanctions and a cumbersome process of banking procedures while dealing with Iraq have been watching with apprehension the increased flow of Western and Far Eastern businesses to Baghdad.

"There has been a marked absence of Jordanian businesses in Iraq," said Hani

Ibrahim, who heads an Amman-based brokerage firm in commodities. "The vacuum was mostly filled by European and Far Eastern firms which offered flexibility and better payment terms for Iraqi imports."

As a result, said the broker, Jordanian exports to Iraq remained at a minimum level in the last three years and the Kingdom was steadily losing its traditional share of the Iraqi market.

"Let us hope that it is not too late for Jordanian businesses to ensure a share of the Iraqi market as and when the sanctions are lifted or at least eased in the short term," added Mr. Ibrahim, who believes that "over-cautiousness" on the part of Jordanian traders, coupled with non-availability of foreign exchange through official channels in Amman, had contributed to diminishing business for Jordanians who wanted to do business with Iraq.

Truck drivers continue strike in Aqaba

By Khattab Salman Special to the Jordan Times

AQABA — Truck drivers commuting between Aqaba and Amman Wednesday continued a strike begun Saturday in protest of what they believe are unsafe conditions of the ringroad in the Aqaba area.

The strike was called after a truck driver was killed Saturday on the ringroad when he lost control of his vehicle, according to Truck Drivers Union (TDU) sources.

Chairman of TDU board Mohammad Abu Haswah said that drivers call the ringroad "the death road"

because 21 drivers lost their lives on that road this year.

He said that this 22-kilometre-long road causes thousands of dinars in losses because of the road's sloping angle which reaches 70 degrees, and in effect causes delay in commuting time and damage to the trucks.

The JD21 million road was opened to traffic in 1993 as detour for trucks away from Aqaba. More than 200 trucks use the 350-kilometre-long highway between Aqaba and Amman daily.

According to Akram Kheirishan, member of the union's board, a strike was earlier staged in 1993 but

was called off after drivers received promises from government officials to improve the road and decrease the slope to at least 40%.

Minister of Transport Samir Kawar said the accident which took place on Saturday was the result of speeding and not road conditions.

Mr. Kawar, who was in Aqaba accompanied by Interior Minister Salameh Hammoud and Public Works and Housing Minister Abdul Razzaq Ensour, to look into the case, added that a plan was drawn to resolve the problems facing land transport over the Aqaba ringroad by early

next year. Long vehicles were racing along the road ignoring traffic signs, some of which were misplaced anyway and tyres littered the highway, the King noted.

"What was amazing," the King said, "was that there were so many police patrols along the highway" and nothing was being done about the hazardous driving conditions.

"This is a priority issue," the King said, adding that something must be done to ensure safety and order on the roads.

The King said he was distressed by the number of accidents in the country and what that meant in terms of human and material losses.

Cancer centre opening delayed for 6 months

By Elias Nasrallah Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An Amman Cancer Centre, which was to open by year-end is now expected to become operational in six months, according to centre officials Wednesday.

It will take another three months to complete the construction work at the seven-storey complex and three more months to become operational, according to Nabih Muammar, director general of the centre.

He pointed out that some of the equipment purchased earlier is already installed at the centre, which, according to initial estimates, would cost JD 17 million to become operational.

Last week the centre was visited by a Dutch team of medical experts, said Dr. Muammar.

He told the Jordan Times that the Dutch government and non-governmental organisations have promised to supply the centre with \$11.1 million (half in a grant and half as a loan payable over an extended period) provided that the equipment needed for the treatment of cancer patients comes from the Netherlands.

He pointed out that some of the equipment purchased earlier is already installed at the centre, which, according to initial estimates, would cost JD 17 million to become operational.

WHAT'S GOING ON

CHRISTMAS DISPLAY

★ Bani Hamida Christmas Display with a variety of small gift items at Bani Hamida House, Jabal Amman, First Circle, Rainbow Street.

NOVEL RECITAL

★ Novel recital by novelist Fayed Mahmoud at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 6:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Mahmoud Musa at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.

★ Plastic art exhibition by Laila Kawash at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of works by Mahmoud Obaidi at Darat Al Funun. Also showing an exhibition of portraits by Fahrelnissa Zeid and the exhibition of contemporary Arab artists.

★ Exhibition of paintings by Ismail and Tamam Shammout at Abdul Hameed Shammout Foundation.

★ Exhibition by artists Latif Al Khateeb and Muhy Khaled at the Housing Bank Gallery.

★ Exhibition at Oman Saudi's Studio, Abdoun Village — Tel.: 829700 until Dec. 31st, 1994.

Work continues on settlement

(Continued from page 1)

nights.

Five Palestinians were hurt and some 45 Palestinians and Israelis arrested Tuesday when security forces dragged them away from the site.

Mr. Arafat called an emergency meeting of his Palestinian "cabinet" Wednesday, warning that the expansion work threatened the autonomy talks.

Palestinian Justice Minister Freiha Abu Medien warned that the peace process "can collapse over the settlement problem."

Palestinian International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath said: "Ephrat is a major setback."

But the right-wing opposition Likud Party submitted a no-confidence motion in parliament, accusing the government of preparing to suspend the construction project.

Battle for Grozny is on

(Continued from page 1)

clear field of fire over the city.

There was also a Russian attack on the Kirov suburb, 10 kilometres northeast of the centre, Chechen spokesman Udugov said.

The pre-dawn attacks were accompanied by air raids on civilian targets in Grozny and southern villages, despite Mr. Yeltsin's statement Tuesday that bombing of civilians would be stopped.

Planes spread terror, bombing an orphanage in Grozny and houses and moving cars south of the city.

Mr. Yeltsin's human rights commissioner, Sergei Kovalev, who is in Grozny, 45.

"Two planes flew right over, I slammed on my brakes, got out and dived into the snow. If only we had

Stinger missiles," he said.

A Chechen soldier, Alek Shabazov, said two Sukhoi 27 bombers had been shot down 35 kilometres south of Grozny, but this could not be independently confirmed.

Russia's leading liberal, Yegor Gaidar, said he regretted the air raids and suggested Mr. Yeltsin had lost his grip over events in the rebel region.

"I was very happy when the president ordered to stop the bombing of Chechnya, but we have information that the bombing of Grozny is continuing today (Wednesday)," he told reporters.

"I'm terribly sorry that President Yeltsin lost this chance of seriously promoting negotiations that could lead to peace."

Save water Every drop counts!

U.S. envoy arrives in North Korea to seek pilot's release

SEOUL (R) — A senior U.S. diplomat crossed the world's last cold war frontier from South to North Korea Wednesday to try to win the release of a captured American helicopter pilot.

Thomas Hubbard, deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, arrived in Pyongyang after crossing at the border hamlet of Panmunjom, North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said in a brief report.

It did not say whether Mr. Hubbard would be allowed to see Chief Warrant Officer Bobby Hall or who he would meet in Pyongyang.

A U.S. embassy official in Seoul said Mr. Hubbard would seek to meet North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong-Nam.

He said Mr. Hubbard, who took part in negotiations with North Koreans in October aimed at ending the Communist state's suspected nuclear weapons programme, wanted to spend only a short time in North Korea "to secure the prompt and immediate release" of officer Hall, who is from Brooksville, Florida.

North Korea charged this week that Officer Hall had been on a spying mission when it shot down his helicopter on Dec. 17 and said the case needed further investigation under military law.

The United States has expressed regret at what it called an accidental intrusion it blames on a navigational error during a routine training mission. It says it is unclear if the helicopter was brought down or made an emergency landing.

On Tuesday North Korea released a photograph of a man it said was Officer Hall. It showed him in a flying suit with his hands in the air. It has said Officer Hall is in good health but has not been allowed contact with foreigners.

Seoul's Han Kyoreh Shin-

gu newspaper quoted an unidentified high-ranking North Korean official at the United Nations as saying Tuesday that Officer Hall's repatriation had been delayed because he was not cooperating with the investigation.

Officer Hall's crewmate, chief Warrant Officer David Hilemon, was killed in the crash. Pyongyang released his body on Thursday last week to U.S. congressman Bill Richardson.

Mr. Richardson, a New Mexico Democrat, said Tues-

day the United States was being subjected to "water torture" over the pilot but should stay calm and negotiate.

U.S. officials said undue delay in freeing Officer Hall

Zhelev becomes stabilising factor in Bulgaria

SOFIA (AFP) — President Zhelev, 59, founded the anti-communist UDF in 1989 within a month of the fall of the Communist regime. He has often taken the Socialists to task in recent years for undermining the restoration of farmland and blocking privatisation. He argues that only complete economic reform can lead to a genuine de-communisation of the country.

But Mr. Zhelev is expected to call on the Socialists to form a government within a week once a date is set for the new parliament to meet after the results published here Tuesday.

Their sworn foes, the Union of Democratic Forces which formed the outgoing government, got 69 seats.

Germany faces awkward anniversaries of world war

BONN (R) — Five months of war anniversaries recalling the fall of the Nazi Third Reich 50 years ago loom ahead in 1995 for German leaders who would rather look to the future than once again dredge up their embarrassing past.

The events of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp to Germany's final defeat on May 8, 1945 will be marked with many solemn speeches and acts of reconciliation from former foes.

But even the best-planned events could, if mishandled, turn into a public relations disaster for the democratic Germany that arose from the ashes of World War II.

With the up roar over possible German participation in last June's D-Day commemorations still ringing in their ears, officials are now very cautiously drawing up their plans to recall the horrors of the war.

"It seems like only yesterday we had the 40th anniversaries of all these events," one senior bureaucrat moaned. "I hope we don't do this again until the 75th anniversary — I won't be around any more to see it all."

The 40th anniversary of the war's end went off well

thanks to a speech by then President Richard Von Weizsaecker stressing Germany's responsibility for genocide against the Jews and calling May 8 the Nation's Day of Liberation.

But even the best-planned events could, if mishandled, turn into a public relations disaster for the democratic Germany that arose from the ashes of World War II.

In Italy, meanwhile, a safe sex conscious physics student planned to patent a prophylactic that plays classical music if it tears.

His break to Beethoven, he said. It was not clear if it was "Ode To Joy."

Animals, as ever, added

grit to the weirdness mill.

Traffic in downtown Tokyo ground to a virtual halt when squid races attracted large crowds of office workers who fancied a flutter. The winner took home the speediest squid.

A Tokyo taxi driver is waiting for police to decide if he can keep a 3,000,000 yen (\$30,000) tip. His passenger paid the 1,600 yen (\$16) fare on the meter, asked for a receipt and then put a stack of old 10,000-yen bills next to the driver as he got out of the taxi. Police say they have had no inquiries about the

Top story — at least as far as New Year revellers are concerned — must surely be the campaign by the Netherlands Liver and Intestine Foundation to make breaking wind publicly acceptable.

Fifteen times a day is about right, the group said.

In Italy, meanwhile, a safe sex conscious physics student planned to patent a prophylactic that plays classical music if it tears.

His break to Beethoven,

he said. It was not clear if it was "Ode To Joy."

Animals, as ever, added

grit to the weirdness mill.

Traffic in downtown Tokyo

ground to a virtual halt when

squid races attracted large

crowds of office workers who

fancied a flutter. The winner

took home the speediest

squid.

A Tokyo taxi driver is waiting

for police to decide if he

can keep a 3,000,000 yen

(\$30,000) tip. His passenger

paid the 1,600 yen (\$16) fare

on the meter, asked for a

receipt and then put a stack

of old 10,000-yen bills next

to the driver as he got out of

the taxi. Police say they have

had no inquiries about the

Top story — at least as far

as New Year revellers are

concerned — must surely be

the campaign by the Nether-

lands Liver and Intestine

Foundation to make breaking

wind publicly acceptable.

Fifteen times a day is about

right, the group said.

In Italy, meanwhile, a safe

sex conscious physics student

planned to patent a prophylactic

that plays classical

music if it tears.

His break to Beethoven,

he said. It was not clear if it was "Ode To Joy."

Animals, as ever, added

grit to the weirdness mill.

Traffic in downtown Tokyo

ground to a virtual halt when

squid races attracted large

crowds of office workers who

fancied a flutter. The winner

took home the speediest

squid.

A Tokyo taxi driver is waiting

for police to decide if he

can keep a 3,000,000 yen

(\$30,000) tip. His passenger

paid the 1,600 yen (\$16) fare

on the meter, asked for a

receipt and then put a stack

of old 10,000-yen bills next

to the driver as he got out of

the taxi. Police say they have

had no inquiries about the

Top story — at least as far

as New Year revellers are

concerned — must surely be

the campaign by the Nether-

lands Liver and Intestine

Foundation to make breaking

wind publicly acceptable.

Fifteen times a day is about

right, the group said.

In Italy, meanwhile, a safe

sex conscious physics student

planned to patent a prophylactic

that plays classical

music if it tears.

His break to Beethoven,

he said. It was not clear if it was "Ode To Joy."

Animals, as ever, added

grit to the weirdness mill.

Traffic in downtown Tokyo

ground to a virtual halt when

squid races attracted large

crowds of office workers who

fancied a flutter. The winner

took home the speediest

squid.

A Tokyo taxi driver is waiting

for police to decide if he

can keep a 3,000,000 yen

(\$30,000) tip. His passenger

paid the 1,600 yen (\$16) fare

on the meter, asked for a

receipt and then put a stack

of old 10,000-yen bills next

to the driver as he got out of

the taxi. Police say they have

had no inquiries about the

Top story — at least as far

as New Year revellers are

concerned — must surely be

the campaign by the Nether-

lands Liver and Intestine

Foundation to make breaking

wind publicly acceptable.

Fifteen times a day is about

right, the group said.

In Italy, meanwhile, a safe

sex conscious physics student

planned to patent a prophylactic

that plays classical

music if it tears.

His break to Beethoven,

he said. It was not clear if it was "Ode To Joy."

Animals, as ever, added

grit to the weirdness mill.

Traffic in downtown Tokyo

ground to a virtual halt when

squid races attracted large

crowds of office workers who

fancied a flutter. The winner

took home the speediest

squid.

A Tokyo taxi driver is waiting

for police to decide if he

can keep a 3,000,000 yen

(\$30,000) tip. His passenger

paid the 1,600 yen (\$16) fare

on the meter, asked for a

receipt and then put a stack

of old 10,000-yen bills next

Armed
Norwegian
reaches
South PoleA
day

Italian parties deadlocked over crisis

(Agencies) — The Italian political crisis has reached a standstill over how to resolve the crisis sparked by Mr. Berlusconi's resignation of Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

Federalist Northern League called in talks with Mr. Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, a non-partisan government spokesman, to pass institutional reforms.

League, once a key ally and now his chief, forced the collapse of his government last week by pulling out of the five-party coalition.

League, and the leftist Democratic Party Left (PDS), rejected Berlusconi's demands for general elections, saying they would be pointless existing rules.

Berlusconi and a few of his buddies want elections, League leader Umberto Bossi said.

suggested an economist joined to form the next government, whose main should be to introduce a voting system, control vast debts and implement federalism.

Gianfranco Fini, Mr. Berlusconi's most faithful backed the outgoing minister's demands for direct elections and said right National Alliance would oppose any plan to form a broad new coalition.

We confirmed our feeling it is indispensable to go to the polls and that government to carry Italy is the last one to have the confidence of parliament," Mr. Fini told reporters after meeting Mr. Scal-

for just over one hour.

Scalfaro, the ultimate in Italian political crisis, holding a round of talks with institutional figures and of political parties in

parliament to find a solution. Mr. Fini and Mr. Bossi said Mr. Scalfaro might have to hold a second round of consultations next week, a move that would further postpone any resolution to the crisis.

Attention will now switch to talks between Mr. Scalfaro and Mr. Berlusconi, whom he will meet in his capacity as leaders of the Forza Italia (Go Italy) party at 1500 GMT.

Political commentators will be looking to see if Mr. Berlusconi is willing to stand aside as his party's only candidate for prime minister in order to end the crisis.

His party, the core of the "Freedom Alliance" which won general elections last March, is divided over whether the media tycoon should demand to stay on as prime minister.

Vittorio Dotti, Forza Italia leader in the lower house of parliament, said Monday the party's main aim should be to head a government that reflected the wishes of voters at the last general election.

He drew fire Tuesday from Forza Italia colleague Pietro Di Muccio, who said the party should back Mr. Berlusconi.

But cabinet spokesman Giuliano Ferrara seemed to indicate Mr. Berlusconi would be unwilling to step aside.

The Berlusconi loyalists are united in feeling that the only problem is setting the date for elections," said Mr. Ferrara, who is also minister for relations with parliament.

Meanwhile, one of Mr. Berlusconi's closest aides said the prime minister would never accept merely serving as a deputy.

"He will never do it and he will never bow to being in opposition," said Marcello Dell'Utri, an executive at Mr. Berlusconi's \$7 billion a year Fininvest media empire who masterminded his made-for-



Italy's Northern League leader Umberto Bossi arrives at his party's headquarters to meet with party dissident parliamentarians rejecting Mr. Bossi's plans of an alliance with the reformed communists of the Party of Democratic Socialism (APPS).

television campaign. His comments, in L'Espresso news magazine, were released ahead of publication.

Meanwhile a poll published Wednesday showed a majority of Italians want Mr. Berlusconi to quit politics for good, and 15 per cent want him sent into exile.

Voters polled by telephone in the days immediately after Mr. Berlusconi was forced to resign last week showed at best feelings about the media magnate who came from nowhere to win March elections but resigned when his government fell apart last week.

According to the survey, taken by the Directa pollsters, 49.8 per cent of voters wanted the disgraced former Premier Bettino Craxi, in exile in Tunisia.

Bangladesh government-opposition talks fail

porters of her Awami League, before leading her MPs to the tightly guarded parliament house.

There was no immediate comment from the government.

Opposition MPs from other groups slowly converged on parliament, but speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali had not arrived late Wednesday to accept their resignation letters.

Supporters cheered the legislators as they entered the parliament house, guarded by several hundred armed police and para-military troops, and a police officer said his men had "strict

orders" not to allow anybody, including journalists, into the building.

Last-minute attempts at a compromise over the opposition's demand for a constitutional amendment so future elections could be held under a neutral caretaker government failed.

Despite pressure on both sides from influential lobby groups to reach an agreement, the last minute talks failed over differences on a joint declaration, the time when Prime Minister Khaleda Zia would step down and the wording of a statement, sources said.

The opposition want the government to announce Mrs. Zia's resignation first.

A smiling Mrs. Wajed said after the announcement that she felt "relaxed" in her campaign for the people, now it is a one-point campaign to oust the government.

She said that under the legal framework proposed by the opposition Mr. Zia would resign and parliament would be dissolved ahead of fresh elections.

The president would appoint a serving or retired Supreme Court judges as an interim prime minister, who would not contest the polls, but would form a cabinet of non-partisan members.

Burundi president says crisis over as Christmas gift

Mr. Minani's election.

The mainly Tutsi opposition UPRONA (Union for National Progress) party said its five coalition government ministers who had threatened to resign would attend the talks.

UPRONA President Charles Mukasi said they were responding to an invitation from Prime Minister Anatole Kanyenkiko, a UPRONA member from Burundi's Tutsi minority, who broke with the party leadership's call and refused to quit the government.

Speaking in a debate on state-run television, Mr. Ntibantunganya said Mr. Minani was unacceptable, accusing him of inciting Hutus to kill Tutsis last year.

Burundi's Tutsi-dominated army is strictly enforcing a night curfew in Bujumbura,

imposed last week after some 30 people died in tit-for-tat ethnic killings fuelled by the row.

Diplomats in the city said life had largely returned to normal but ethnic tensions still ran high in northern districts.

Trouble started when the mainly Hutu majority Burundi Front For Democracy (FRODEBU), which dominates the government, elected Mr. Minani as president of the National Assembly on Dec. 1.

UPRONA said Mr. Minani was unacceptable, accusing him of inciting Hutus to kill Tutsis last year.

Burundi's Tutsi-dominated army is strictly enforcing a night curfew in Bujumbura,

India's Congress seeks 'human face' for reforms

ried by the continuing lack of nationwide consensus on the reforms, which were started by Mr. Rao after he took office in June 1991 and sought to bury four decades of closed-market policies. The liberalisation returned to centre-stage after Mr. Rao's main rival in the Congress, Arjun Singh, quit the cabinet Saturday and lashed out, among other things, the reforms.

Arjun Singh, in his resignation letter to Mr. Rao, said the opposition had managed to convince voters that "their care, anxieties and concerns do not fall within the purview of the objectives to be achieved by the reforms."

The government, while raking up its economic record, is promising to give its "populist touch as country heads towards her round of crucial state elections in February.

Its soul-searching about reforms was prompted by its defeat in the Indian economy in two key states where the opposition dangled as an alternative to reforms which experts have led to inflation. Business leaders are wor-

over the reforms. "The recent verdict is most certainly not against reforms but against (the) government's failure to deliver goods and ensure a reasonable standard of living," said Ishai Ahluwalia of the Centre for Policy Research, a think-tank.

Usita Patnaik, an economist, disagreed. "It was a vote against corruption and a vote against the new policies of the government," she said, blaming the withdrawal of subsidies on food items as the main reason for the sharp voter swing against the Congress.

The wide-ranging economic reforms have boosted exports and imports, and generated unprecedented business in stock markets. But they have also led to an all-round price rise, particularly of basic foodgrains.

"Thus income and wealth disparities have grown in the last four years," said economist Arun Kumar. "This growing income differential is

built into the new economic policy and (affected the polis)."

The Congress, which faces a strong challenge in the February ballot, and the government are predictably worried.

Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee said Monday there was no question of the government changing tack on economic reforms, but said it will ensure they are implemented with a human face.

Congress leaders say the party will go for a vote-catching populist programme in the five states which go to the polls, which are being seen as the final rehearsal for parliamentary elections due in mid-1996.

The Statesman newspaper said New Delhi may drop plans to further reduce subsidies in the annual budget to be unveiled in February in a desperate bid to win back the support of the mass of poor and farmers.

U.N. commander Rose tries to defuse fighting in Bihać

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The U.N. peacekeeping commander in Bosnia visited the enclave of Bihać Wednesday in a bid to halt fighting which threatens the country's latest ceasefire.

Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose flew to Bihać by helicopter from the Croatian port of Split, in his second attempt to enter the northwestern enclave after being blocked by Croatian Serbs surrounding the pocket earlier this month.

Bosnia's Muslim-led government has threatened to break the ceasefire if its troops continue to come under fire from Serb forces or their allies, rebel Muslim and rebel Muslims, who have gained the upper hand in the enclave, capturing Veleka Kladska earlier this month.

The seven-day ceasefire, brokered by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, is designed to pave the way for a more extensive four-month truce and a resumption of peace talks. It has slowed fighting across the country since it began Saturday.

Mr. Thant said the U.N. was making progress in talks on the proposed cessation of hostilities, under which peacekeeping troops would be deployed between the two armies.

U.N. officials expect the Serbs and the Muslim-led government to reach agreement on the four-month truce by or close to the planned deadline of Jan. 1, he said in Zagreb.

"We hope that we will have the cessation of hostilities agreement within the first

few days in January," Mr. Thant said.

Mr. Rose also planned to discuss securing regular supply deliveries for some 1,200 Bangladeshi U.N. troops who have been virtually cut off from the outside world due to a Serb blockade.

The U.N. wants to withdraw 400 peacekeepers from Bihać because of Serb obstruction of supply convoys but Croatian Serb authorities have blocked the withdrawal.

"The main focus is to secure regular supplies to our troops, rather than pulling them out," Mr. Thant said.

In the Bosnian capital Sarajevo, the ceasefire has been holding for the most part but a suspected Serb sniper wounded a 61-year-old woman in the leg Tuesday.

"We condemn in the strongest possible way this attack on a civilian," Mr. Thant said.

Meanwhile Croatian President Franjo Tudjman has made an unprecedented foray into Croatian territory held by separatist Serbs and placed under U.N. protection since the middle of 1991.

Tudjman reasserted his readiness to normalise relations with the Serbian Republic in Belgrade "on condition that Serbia and Yugoslavia (now consisting of only Serbia and Montenegro) recognises the internationally accepted borders of Croatia."

Republic of Krajina (RSK)." The closure of the Okucani-Nova Gradiska segment of the highway, which used to link Zagreb with the Serbian capital Belgrade, had forced motorists heading for eastern Croatia to use secondary roads, adding 150 kilometres to the journey.

Speaking Tuesday in Slavonski Brod, halfway between Zagreb and Belgrade, Mr. Tudjman pledged that rail links between Slavonski Brod and Zagreb and between the Croatian capital and the Adriatic port of Split would also be restored.

The December agreement between Zagreb and the Croatian Serbs also calls for the establishment of communication connections as well as water and electricity services between the two entities.

"All the Croatian regions (under Serb control) will be liberated," Mr. Tudjman declared, but he added that his government backed "a political settlement" to the conflict.

He promised that the civil rights of Serbs living under Croatian rule would be respected.

But he warned that if Croatian Serbs "do not accept a peaceful settlement, it would be better if they left Croatia."

Mr. Tudjman reasserted his readiness to normalise relations with the Serbian Republic in Belgrade "on condition that Serbia and Yugoslavia (now consisting of only Serbia and Montenegro) recognises the internationally accepted borders of Croatia."

Russian troops to mark sad New Year in Chechenya

ON THE CHECHEN BORDER, Russia (R) — Russian troops sent to quell separatist rebels in Chechenya are preparing to celebrate a sad New Year in the trenches, with little hope of a quick end to their unpopular military operation.

"We're just feeding flesh here, without even being told what we are here for and what is to come next," an Interior Ministry forces

sergeant said Wednesday as fellow-servicemen decorated a New Year tree, delivered by armoured personnel carrier.

His battalion, which has been dispatched to the rebel region with thousands of other troops, is waiting on the border between Chechenya and another Russian ethnic republic, Ingushetia, some 50 kilometres from the Chechen capital Grozny.

Year's Eve with us," he said, standing in an open field covered with trenches and dug-in armoured vehicles. "We will have a real New Year tree and champagne."

Soldiers all around were busy decorating fir trees delivered from the nearby forest. One tree, near a tank, was topped with a festive five-point star. This had been hewn out of a used cartridge box with an axe.

Akron • Canton • Albany • Atlanta • Baltimore • Bermuda • Birmingham • Boston • Buffalo • Burlington • Charleston, SC • Charlotte • Chicago • Cincinnati • Columbia • Columbus • Cleveland • Dallas • Dayton • Denver • Detroit • Fayetteville • Fort Lauderdale • Fort Myers • Grand Rapids • Greensboro • Greenville/Spartanburg • Hartford • Harrisburg • Houston • Indianapolis • Jacksonville • Kansas City • Kennedy • Knoxville • Las Vegas • Lexington • Little Rock • Los Angeles • Louisville • Memphis • Mexico City • Miami • Milwaukee • Montreal • Myrtle Beach • Nashville • Newark • New Orleans • New York • Norfolk • Orange County • Orlando • Philadelphia • Pittsburgh • Portland • Providence • Phoenix • Raleigh/Durham • Richmond • Roanoke • Rochester • San Diego • San Francisco • Seattle • St. Louis • Syracuse • Tallahassee • Tampa • Toledo • Toronto • Tri Cities • Vancouver • Washington • West Palm Beach • Wilmington, NC

We now fly from Amman to 75 destinations in North America.

Now British Airways can fly you from Amman to over 75 cities in North America.

On the way you'll be able to enjoy in-flight video, delicious Arabic cuisine, and our

renowned British Airways hospitality.

Flights arrive at London's Heathrow

airport, where you'll be able to relax in

our exclusive Qantas Lounge before flying

on to any one of our 23 major gateways in North America.

How many other airlines can offer you

such a star-spangled service?

BRITISH AIRWAYS

The world's favourite airline

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

جريدة الأردن العربي المستقلة الصادرة باللغة الإنجليزية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Blame it on others?

THE EGYPTIAN president, Hosni Mubarak, was quoted yesterday as telling a Kuwaiti newspaper that Jordan "reneged" on an agreement it had with Syria to "sign peace with Israel at the same time." The Egyptian leader said that Jordan's peace with Israel "stirred Syrian reservations."

The charges made by Mr. Mubarak are serious since Syria itself has so far said nothing to this effect. Nor was any such agreement reported by any source.

Jordan has always sought and is still seeking a comprehensive peace because the Kingdom believes that for peace to hold and last it has to be concluded between Israel and all the Arab parties concerned.

Right from the beginning of the Madrid peace process in October 1991, Jordan sought in vain to ensure a minimum level of Arab coordination in order to ensure a better deal for the Arab side. That effort has failed, though, through no fault of the Jordanian side. While Jordan chose to play in tandem with the other parties it at times found itself left behind, especially with the Oslo breakthrough on the Palestinian track.

Not only that. Jordan was pressed by both its Arab brothers and the West. And Jordan pleaded with its Arab brethren, especially Egypt and Syria, to work for the lifting of the blockade against us by their friends in the Arab World and elsewhere. Furthermore Jordan wanted to see, and at a certain stage sensed, real progress on the Syrian-Lebanese track with Israel. We find it therefore odd to hear these remarks at this time when Jordan is seeking to mend Arab differences and bring Arabs back together.

What in fact makes the position of each individual Arab state so vulnerable is the fact that the Arabs are divided. And unless a genuine effort is made to end this division and regain a minimum Arab consensus on national issues, the Arabs will continue to be weak. Perhaps the meeting between President Mubarak, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and President Hafez Al Assad of Syria in Alexandria would lead to a fresh initiative to mend fences in the Arab World by pressing the need to hold an Arab summit.

Egypt, traditionally the leader of the Arab World, could play a positive role in this effort. The psychological effects of the Gulf war and peace treaties with Israel can only be mitigated by a genuine drive at reconciliation. Only a united nation can have a better deal on both the regional and international levels.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE COMING year is expected to witness confrontation between Iran and the United States, claimed a writer in *Al Dostour* Wednesday. Mohammad Kawash said that Washington was expected in the new year to open two fronts against Tehran: one internal and the other external. He said that on the domestic front Washington was expected to set one group against the other in order to weaken the regime which Washington is accusing of siding with the Islamist revolutionaries in different parts of the world. The writer said that on the external front Washington was expected to drum up the question of Iran's occupation of the three islands that belong to the United Arab Emirates. According to the writer, the United States is worried about the oil-rich Gulf area and concerned over Iran's current moves to spread its domination and influence in that strategic area, bearing in mind the recent Shiite-backed disturbances that erupted in Bahrain. The writer said that there is no doubt that the coming year would witness confrontation which he said will be for the sole purpose of serving the interests of the United States and Israel alone within a plan designed to create a new Middle Eastern order.

A COLUMNIST in *Al Ra'i* Wednesday discussed the current contacts to form a new government capable of dealing with the rapid developments at the domestic and regional levels. We hope that the prime minister will this time be more fortunate and wiser in selecting the team that would help him carry on the task ahead, said Sultan Al Hattab. The writer said it seems that the prime minister this time is not in a hurry to put together a cabinet and he is taking time to think over every single move. Perhaps the prime minister is contemplating involving parliamentary blocs in his coming government in a bid to reduce the opposition effect on the one hand and to ensure smooth and rapid passage of draft laws that are required to cater to the requirements of the coming era, said the writer. He said that Jordan is in need of a government reflecting all shades of the political spectrum in the country and truly reflecting the political pluralism which the Kingdom has embraced with the advent of democracy. The writer said he hoped the prime minister would this time select a group of persons who truly believe in national unity.

The View from Academia

For whom the bell tolls: teachers and the school day

THE RECENT decree by the Ministry of Education requesting teachers to stay at school till the end of the school day triggers in my mind a few thoughts regarding the teacher's role in school life as a whole.

The decision (which, by the way, is not new; what is new is its enforcement) requests teachers to be present at the premises from the time "the first bell rings" (around 7:45 a.m.) till the time "the last bell rings" (on some days, when there is a sixth class only, at approximately 1:10 p.m., and on other days, when there is a seventh class, at around 2:00).

Formerly, teachers showed up 7:45 a.m., with some exceptions here and there. The exceptions included, primarily, those teachers who did not have a first or second lesson, those who had pressing reasons for not showing up on time (sickness, urgent tasks and missions of sorts, unavoidable delays, etc.), and those who made "special" arrangements with schoolmasters. As for the time of leaving school, it varied somewhat. When teachers had a sixth or seventh class, they left at 1:10 p.m. or 2:00 p.m., respectively. On those days when they finished earlier—say at the end of the third, fourth or fifth lesson—they were technically free to leave. Most, however, did not leave except at the end of the fifth lesson, around 12:30; this was almost a binding rule for the vast majority of teachers. Again, there were some exceptions here: those who had legitimate and pressing reasons of sorts and those who made "special" arrangements with schoolmasters.

This has basically been the picture up until the recent decree. I have spoken with several teachers about the decree, with the aim of assessing their viewpoints, and I have found out that they all object to it. Naturally, some of the reasons they give are plausible, common-sensical, perceptive and persuasive. Others are not. On the whole, however, I believe that they have a case.

The following points need to be taken into account when thinking about the wisdom and value of the decision:

1. The time factor. Some people are under the impression (a false impression no doubt) that the minute a teacher finishes his/her last lesson, he/she can leave any time they wish. This is not true, for as I have just mentioned, teachers do not leave (except when they obtain a permission) before the end of the fifth lesson. This is one thing. Another important thing to keep in mind here is that the amount of time in question (which the decree is attempting to have a grip on) ranges merely from one to one and a half hours

(from the end of the fifth period to that of the sixth or seventh), and not a whole working day—as some may think. Let's keep that in mind.

2. The rationale behind the decision. It is not clear in the minds of teachers (and the minds of observers interested in the welfare of education in the Kingdom) why the ministry has opted for enforcing the decision at this particular moment in history. As in the case of many decisions of this sort, the teachers have not been consulted. Are not they fundamental participants in the educational process? Forget that. This is perhaps too democratic for us yet. But ought not they be informed or enlightened in minute detail about the virtues of the decision? This has not happened. I have asked many teachers about the exact wording of the decree and about the reasons cited by the ministry for the enforcement. They do not know. They ought to know, of course; they ought to find out. Admittedly, this is a mistake on their part. But ought not the ministry to go out of its way to explain and justify that is, if their are explanations and justifications in the first place. Are there? "In the general interest of the school," "in the general interest of education and the homeland" and some other such statements are too vague to make sense. One wants specific reasons.

In the absence of coherently formulated, eloquently and effectively phrased justifications, one is left free to conjecture and guess. If the reason behind the decision is to have control over and prevent the frequent violations of the working day (I have heard something to this effect), such control and such prevention are better served through other means. It is a bad idea (and this is a phenomenon quite widespread at our public institutions) to attempt to deal widespread exceptional cases and minor violations through a general decision or regulation involving everybody. In my opinion, this is a form of what may best be called "administrative impotence." If a schoolmaster allows his "buddies" to leave earlier than others, and if a teacher makes too many excuses and gives too many pretenses for coming to school late and leaving early, such headmaster and such teacher are to be questioned and firmly asked to change their behavior. We should not be coy, afraid or "kind" and "generous" in dealing with violators and rule breakers.

If the reason is to equate teachers with other public servants and employees who work from 8:00-2:00 (and I have heard something to this effect also), the analogy does not apply. For one thing, teachers come to school at no later than 7:45, some come earlier. Some in fact give free extra lessons to students at 7:00. For another, when a

public employee leaves the premises at two, he/she is free; the work remains behind. The teacher, on the other hand, takes his work with him, copybooks to fill out, exam to grade, essays to read, etc.

But if the rationale behind the decision is to inject life into schools, many of which are virtually dead (students and teachers come to classes then leave), this is an entirely different matter.

Yes, our schools need life, need activities of all sorts need public lectures and seminars for both teachers and students, need real interaction within their yards and halls. Aside from formal lessons, there is hardly anything else for most of the activities are at best symbolic and marginal. It is a fact that students and teachers at the more privileged schools and educational establishments (in our society as elsewhere in the world) learn, grow and develop (on all levels) at these schools and establishments. The sad thing is that the vast majority of our schools and universities are not "institutions" (in the positive sense), rather, they are primarily buildings, seats and textbooks. Not much else. "School life"? "Campus life"? Where is it? We all want to see it materialize; we all pray for it to come true.

How can it be created? Definitely not by asking teachers to stay at school till the "last bell rings," a "bell" whose reductive Pavlovian and Skinnerian implications and connotations we all know. If we want to have teachers spend ample time at schools (and not just an additional one or one and a half hours), we should think about what we want to have them do. One headmaster told me, and he was not joking: "If I keep all teachers at school, the quarrels and fights among them will at least triple." Under the present system of teaching (we call it "education"), which is composed of nothing but classes and classes and more classes, there is no time for activities; even if the teachers stay at the premises and want to engage students in activities, no students will be available, for all of them have classes to attend.

We want the ministry to toll the bell, and we want the teachers to obey. But what bell? It is the bell which heralds a new change, a restructuring of the school day, a fundamental reorganization of the business we conduct at schools and the way we conduct it. We want a school day which conveniently and effectively allows students and teachers to interact, to engage in fruitful and meaningful activities inside and outside the classroom, and to embark on the road of real education. And we want decrees and decisions which really work, rather than those which look good on paper.

LETTERS

Helping foreigners study in Jordan

To the Editor:

THE ARTICLE "Students who need help are many, but help them?" by English language and literature Professor Al Majdoub (Dec. 13-16, Jordan Times) is written with the Jordanian student in mind. However, the title of this reminded me of the one he wrote for the June 3-6 issue Jordan Times "Foreign nationals an asset in language race." The correction for me that foreign nationals can be used to teach Jordanian students with, at the very least, their English no one denies that nowadays good English skills are crucial graduates who seek well paying jobs.

In the earlier article, Dr. Majdoub emphasized 1) importance of helping foreign nationals to teach English second language, 2) that foreign nationals are a potential at Jordanian schools (permanent residents in particular, J opinion) 3) the fact that students are usually more motivated to learn a language from a native speaker.

Because native speakers of language may not necessarily have the required degree to teach, a question I would like to bring this letter concerns who will assist that same foreign national obtain his/her degree at a Jordanian university?

To truly be an asset to Jordan's school system, native speakers of languages (particularly those of us who are living permanent and hopefully in Jordan) need to know that we have opportunity to help us receive an education and training in Jordan, if not the Jordanian "establishment" must provide foreign nations with incentives. In the long run, this will be the benefit of Jordanian students.

We foreigners take seriously how far a good education will make us more effective employees. Many of us have been pioneering in Jordan for years (in my case, nearly 16 years), know the meaning of struggle. And we deeply appreciate a opportunity to help us increase our knowledge and intellect, help others increase theirs, and to provide for our families and through the means of rewarding career.

I know that I am not the only foreign national who moved to Jordan without a university degree. An wonderful it would be to have an opportunity in our home country to change that!

The education administration in Jordan could finance education of permanent resident native English (or other) speakers studying education, English as a second language literature etc. for those who agree to repay this opportunity upon graduation, let's say, teaching English for four years in one or Jordanian schools.

Companies could make scholarships, loans and grade awards available to foreign nationals who are permanent citizens of Jordan and had good/excellent high school grades (I graduated in the upper 25% of my senior class, for example). Financial aid could be repaid by the graduate, especially in needed fit by agreeing to work for the company for four years at a reasonable salary, if need be, or some other incentive.

Universities and English departments could set up finance finds. Each student wishing to be a member would be asked to contribute a one-time ID 50 fee (for example). An aw committee would be in charge of distributing the money students according to need. If an English department had sufficient funds available to all English students the native English-speaking student would then have an equal opportunity to ask for financial assistance.

With such incentives, universities in Jordan would attract foreign national teachers who can teach.

But some university subjects are only taught in Arabic, while an obstacle to obtaining a degree for many foreign national students is the Arabic language exam, sooner or later, is essential being awarded a degree at most of Jordan's colleges and universities. This is another hurdle for the foreign national students to overcome and try to pass successfully.

Some specialized colleges only teach in the Arabic language, an English-speaking foreign national interested in attending two-year college of library science, for example, the best choice is to attend without fluency in Arabic.

More allowances and provisions should be made for foreign nationals who are permanent residents in Jordan. The American University Graduates (AUG) not long ago organized a trip to Jordan. If something on this scale is made possible for Arab-Americans, surely someone can organize a group called something like the American Attending University in Jordan (AAUJ). Until someone does that, out of frustration I would organize a group of one called the American Wishing to Attend University in Jordan (AWAUJ).

Mrs. Les Marie Rash Zaitou
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferable address as well. Name can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Hijack casts shadow over Franco-Algerian ties

By Bernard Edinger

Reuter

PARIS — France's deep ties with Algeria have been strained by a row over the handling of the Air France hijack and French fears of being stuck into Algeria's ferocious civil conflict.

"The new Algerian war has exploded onto the French scene," said Benjamin Stora, a leading French historian of the troubled, often bloody, ties between two countries set face to face across the Mediterranean Sea.

"French politicians are going to have to make some hard choices about future ties with Algeria because the problem is not going to go away," Mr. Stora told Reuters on Tuesday.

He echoed officials who warned that French commandos' successful storming of the plane hijacked in Algeria by fundamentalist gunmen was unlikely to end attacks by such determined groups as the radical armed Islamic group (GIA).

The 54-hour hijacking, which ended in Marseille with the killing of all four GIA guerrillas, would not necessarily be interpreted as a final defeat by the group's leaders, who have rarely enjoyed such interna-

tional attention in the past. "It's only a temporary setback for the kind of terrorist act that feeds on publicity," said Mr. Stora.

Less than 24 hours after the end of the hijack drama, three French and one Belgian priest were murdered in northern Algeria.

Commentators said past waves of hijackings in the Middle East showed there were always endless reservoirs of desperate fanatical youths ready to become martyrs for a cause.

The GIA and the companion Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) want to overthrow Algeria's non-elected military government and place the country under Sharia law.

They say France gives Algeria military backing and they have killed 22 French nationals so far in Algeria itself.

France is horrified at the idea of an Islamic regime an hour's flight away across the Mediterranean but relations with Algeria's current rulers are not easy either.

France ruled Algeria as a colony for 132 years until 1962, when independence came only after a bloody seven-year war which left deep scars on Algerian society.

Mistrust is rampant on

both sides. In the aftermath of the hijack, French officials began relating how they argued with their Algerian counterparts about how to end it.

Algeria rejected the use of French police on its soil, and the French feared that Algerian special forces, who expect no quarter from the fundamentalists and offer them none, would cause a massacre if they stormed the plane in Algiers.

Up to 20,000 people may have died in Algeria since strife began in 1992 with the cancellation of elections which the FIS was poised to win.

French officials were at pains after the hijacking to distance themselves from the Algerian government. "France's economic aid is to the Algerian people, not for one side or another," said Foreign Minister Alain Juppe.

Mr. Juppe said Paris wanted democracy in Algeria and recalled Paris had long pressed military authorities to seek dialogue with moderate forces in the country.

Mr. Stora said it was wrong to believe there was nothing on the political spectrum between the military and the Muslim extremists.

Weekender

Dec. 29, 1994

Published Every Thursday

King unveils Dragon secret: story of missile going awry

His Majesty King Hussein, who Tuesday left for Austria to have a check up on his ears, revealed during this week's working luncheon which he hosted for journalists and columnists at Basman Palace that he had long ago suffered some damage to his left ear while test firing an anti-tank Dragon missile which the Armed Forces had just acquired. "The soldier who was firing the missile missed twice, so I took it upon myself to try," the King told the attentive group of journalists. The exercise ruptured the eardrum because unfortunately the King had not taken the right precautions while firing. His Majesty confided in the journalists that he too missed, which probably upset him more than the injury to his ear. "The question of why we were missing the target plagued us all until we discovered the reason," the King said. "As it turned out we should not have been shooting in an area full of sand."

* * * * *

DOCTORS' ORDERS ARE NOT ALWAYS FOLLOWED: Sources close to the King disclosed that the damage to his ear could have been contained had His Majesty followed doctors' instructions. "But the man does not rest, or he can have no rest when the doctors tell him he needs it," one source said. "Doctors' orders are not easily followed by kings, and certainly not this King," the source said. "Often after His Majesty was treated for the ear infection, something would happen forcing him to travel when he should not," added the source. The last time this happened was in April, when Her Majesty the Queen Mother passed away hardly a few days after the King had an operation on his ear in London and was advised not to fly for a period of time afterwards. But this was one of life's tolls.

* * * * *

SOUND JUDGEMENT DESPITE EAR BLUES: Whatever the damage to his ear, the King could not but take keen note of what he reads, sees and hears, in the press as well as in the broadcast media. At the luncheon, among other topics, King Hussein again, as he has done in past, called on the local television media to exercise sound judgement in news worthiness and trim down coverage of his own activities as well as those of the Royal Family. "We are part of the whole Jordanian family," he said. "Whatever activities we undertake are part of our duties. So there is no need to have them on television all the time." At the same time, the King directed that Jordan Television and Radio Corporation make a serious reassessment of the programmes it offers with an eye towards a conscious overhaul of what it puts on the air. Although the corporation had earlier reported that alterations in programming were in the offing, the order by the King was interpreted by some as a message to "fast-forward" that process. With such an overhaul, viewers and listeners might one day participate in a media rating system to help producers decide just what it is the public is really interested in.

* * * * *

DECade-old CRYSTAL BALL: Since the start of the democratisation process in 1989, columnists have had few qualms about letting people know what they think and their writings could resurface and provide insight into the development of their earlier views and convictions. Some veteran J.T. readers may recall that years ago, in the mid-eighties to be precise, Marwan Muasher, Jordan's ambassador-designate to Israel, doubled as

a J.T. columnist and university professor. With his imminent posting in mind, we searched our files at the paper and found a piece penned by Dr. Muasher which addressed what he then saw as a need for "a better understanding of Israel." Following are highlights from the piece, which was written following a political squabble between Israel's then Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon under the National Unity Government that began in 1984. The piece, which was by the way inexplicably never published in the J.T., highlights how our colleague and friend from Salt may have had an instinct that he would one day do exactly what he preached: "A political feud between Prime Minister Peres and Trade Minister Sharon seriously threatened the governing coalition, and almost brought about the downfall of the National Unity Government. What I find of interest here is the treatment by our society of such events whenever they occur in Israeli society. We have a tendency to dismiss any Israeli social or political moves as 'staged plays.' This (negative) image of both the Israeli individual and society is most understandable in our culture. In an era where the Arab, and more particularly the Palestinian, individual has been constantly subjected to Israeli injustice and arrogance, it is difficult to draw any human image of anything related to the word Israeli. This fact, coupled with the physical isolation between Arab and Israeli societies over a considerable number of years, has led to an almost total ignorance of the Israeli mind and way of thinking. The idea we hold of Israelis is one we have largely formulated out of myth, regardless of what Israelis are truly like. If we are to think of counter ways of dealing with Israel effectively, we have to acquire a thorough understanding of the Israeli mind. We have to deal with this fact called Israel, and stop acting like we are dealing with a vacuum. That this has not so far happened has already caused us much harm. As the situation stands it is almost impossible to find any literature about Israel other than pure propaganda. There are no research centres where one could obtain information about the people who live across the river, and the ones responsible for one of our biggest problems. I suggest the formation of a research centre for Israeli studies, where information can be collected on all walks of Israeli life. Information and expertise from such a centre could be utilised on the highest levels in taking sounder decisions pertaining to our regional problems."

Dr. Muasher's words of nearly a decade ago leaves one wondering if he was not looking into a crystal ball back then, and more importantly perhaps, about how he would be utilising his tour of duty in Israel to do exactly what he himself had called for.

* * * * *

EXPLETIVES DELETED: This same belief in the need for accurate information that the ambassador-designate was advocating was the topic of a recent war of written words between Al Ra'i's Arabic daily columnist Samir Hiyari and Director of Maan Government Hospital Tayseer Kheishan. Hiyari had blasted what he described as abominable conditions at the Maan Hospital in one of his columns, thus eliciting a scathing reply to the editor by Dr. Kheishan. The reply was reprinted in the space allotted to Hiyari's column with an editor's note saying that "some dirty words that neither Al Ra'i nor its readers would tolerate" were omitted. Dr. Kheishan's reply did little to counter Hiyari's allegations, but rather occupied significant space highlighting the visits and donations of members of the Royal Family, ministers and other prominent officials to the hospital. In the end, it was a matter of Hiyari's words against Dr. Kheishan's (expletives or no expletives) and vice-versa. Maybe this controversy will result in the formation of independent teams that would conduct unannounced check-ups on

the country's health and other public service facilities to ensure that requirements and standards are being met and maintained.

* * * * *

CHECK THE 'EYEWITNESS': Another Al Ra'i reader, Ali Al Halabi, the honorary consul of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, took offense at a report in the newspaper and quickly wrote its editor in defence of the West African country he represents. Mr. Halabi said that the Al Ra'i reporter quoted an "eyewitness" as saying that more than 14,000 Mauritanians, eager to escape the poverty of their country, had applied for 500 jobs in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). "What I want the eyewitness to know," wrote the consul, is that these Mauritanian citizens are leaving their own country to take up honourable work in another to improve their living conditions, and not to escape poverty. He said it was the responsibility of the chief editor to verify the words of such eyewitnesses, and that the "alleged" eyewitnesses themselves should witness Mauritania's advances in democracy, political pluralism, freedom of the press and the establishment of constitutional institutions. Maybe Al Ra'i should send a team of investigators to Mauritania right away.

* * * * *

JORDANIAN HITS BUNDESTAG?: The desire to emigrate resulted in a significant success story as was illustrated in a recent familial advertisement in Al Ra'i. The advertisement read: "Haj Ramadan Hammad and sons, Talal, Jamal, Jalal, and Dr. Kamal from Kufr Aaneh, congratulate their cousins Ali Hammad, Yousef Hammad, and Dr. Aref Hammad on the occasion of their brother Dr. Hisham Hammad's election to the German parliament — the first time in the history of the German parliament that an immigrant has won a seat." Although we do not know whether the seat won by Dr. Hammad was indeed in the Bundestag (the advertisement did not say); if so he may stand a chance to be seated next to Dagmar Koehl, Miss Germany of 1977, who secured a parliamentary seat in the October elections for the Christian Social Union.

* * * * *

CHANGE AT VOA: History will witness movement of another sort soon when Voice of America's (VOA) Programme Centre Director Mohammad Ghuneim concludes more than a decade of duty in Jordan. Ghuneim, who said that he very much enjoyed his rather long assignment here, leaves for Washington, D.C. to become chief of the Arabic branch of the VOA. He and his wife Ida, will reunite with their four adult children who are already pursuing careers or completing their higher education in the U.S.

* * * * *

OF MOVES AND MUSICAL CHAIRS: People move, but so do government offices. Keeping track of the "musical chairs" of public facilities, the Amman Governorate moved from Jabal Hussein to the former premises of the Interior Ministry at the Jamal Abdul Nasser Circle. Next week, the Criminal Court is expected to be moved to the same new premises of the governorate. As was reported earlier, the Interior Ministry moved to new premises behind the Royal Cultural Centre, and the General Intelligence moved into a huge new complex located southwest of the King Hussein Medical Centre. But while Interior Minister Salameh Hammad brims with pride over having his new domain completed in record time, citizens have been overheard complaining that it was easier to just walk into the old offices



Mohammad Ghuneim

back at "Dawar Dakhiliyah" and actually get to speak to an official. And at the landmark "mukhabarat" blue giant, the colourful Badia police have settled into their new head camp. Back on the job in the government sector in a not-so-new but still rather impressive building, after recovering from a car accident last week, is Minister of Agriculture Mansour Ben Tarif. Dairy producers and poultry farmers must have shown Mr. Ben Tarif and his ministry some extra consideration during a week that was marked by threats of strikes and conflicts over animal feed supplies. Still analysts say Mr. Ben Tarif will have time to rest because Karak Deputy Samir Habashneh is tipped for the minister's seat in the next Cabinet.

* * * * *

ANOTHER FIRST: Consideration was in the cards also for prominent lawyer Jamal Nasir who was decorated by Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands while she was on a state visit to Jordan this month. Dr. Nasir, who is the King's attorney in London and legal advisor to and member of the board of Royal Jordanian, the national air carrier, was awarded the Commander in de Orde van Oranje-Nassau for his contribution and work in the field of aviation. We are told that this is the first time such a medal has been awarded to an Arab on legal merit in aviation affairs. Dr. Nasir's legal portfolio includes working to resolve the controversy over allegations of discrepancies in R.J. purchases of Airbus aircraft.

* * * * *

A GRATEFUL TOURIST: Commendations were in order also for doctors at the Petra Polyclinic in Wadi Mousa who cared for British tourist Mrs. C.A. Ohl when she suffered a severe asthma attack while visiting Petra. In a letter addressed to our embassy in London, Mrs. Ohl said that "by chance, the wife of the Minister of Tourism was visiting Petra at the same time and her kindness and prompt action in getting me to the clinic were much appreciated." Mrs. Ohl said she hopes to return to Jordan, "a country and a people to be proud of."

On that happy note, we wish our readers a safe, healthy and peaceful new year.

Jennifer Hamarneh

Pervasive censorship

Guardians Of Thought: Limits On Freedom Of Expression In Iran

Middle East Watch, New York and Washington 1993

Iran is a land of paradoxes. It must be admitted by any objective observer that in some respects public debate is certainly freer there than in most other countries of the Middle East. There is a diversity of opinions allowed, in the press as within the Majlis, in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Yet a closer look reveals that censorship is pervasive in Iran, in spite of ongoing lively debates, and the survival of a large book publishing sector which actually flourished until two years ago, when the harsh economics of an industry dependent on imported paper and artificial currency rates caught up with it.

Broadcasts on Iran's state TV — obviously a key medium — are heavily controlled, tending to be grey and deadly dull, often gloomy in spirit. Indeed, one of the most persuasive explanations advanced for the healthy state of book publishing and book sales in Iran since the 1979 revolution is that TV was so boring that many educated people switched off and read books instead.

Probably the worst aspect of contemporary Iran is the sheer uncertainty about what is permitted for a writer or publisher. The constitution and laws count for nothing when their actual implementation is in the hands of powerful, wilful despots. "It is never clear whether what can be said, written and filmed today will be cause for financial ruin, arrest or other punishment tomorrow," claims this report by Middle East Watch.

Application of the Press Law, which looks good on paper, remains highly uncertain in Iran. "Laws are applied selectively and inconsistently, and there is uncertainty as to the governing norms." Even worse, vigilante groups acting for factions within the govern-

ment often resort to violence or bombings in "protest actions" to intimidate and effectively censor their opponents.

In the academic field, purges of teaching staff and highly ideological criteria adopted for students' access to universities — especially for young women — have done much to erode and lower educational standards.

Laughter can be a weapon of the poor or powerless, and political jokes, as George Orwell once said, amount to "tiny revolutions." Certainly, all the evidence given here suggests that Iran's clerical government not only lacks a sense of humour, but a proper sense of proportion too. The regime has punished severely those daring to use laughter to a political purpose. Naturally, cartoonists and writers utilising satire have suffered when they seem to show disrespect for the cherished icons of Iran's regime. More than anything else, it is the image of Ayatollah Khomeini when used in a humourous context — even blurred in outline and frankly ambiguous, as when appearing in the folds of a dress-pattern in a women's magazine — which has roused the mullahs' blind fury.

Among the most sinister of the various tactics used to silence writers and artists in Iran are shrill campaigns of defamation. Some of Iran's most talented film makers have been intimidated in this way. In a daring open letter, film maker Mohsen Makhmalbaf denounced the regime's brutal "public persecution" of his films and of him personally, and went on to declare that the arguments used actually had nothing to do with him. Instead, he claims, "the fight is over nothing other than the struggles between the different factions who seeks power."

Such cynicism about the regime's motives for persecuting writers and artists is very common in contemporary Iran. Middle East Watch makes many recommendations to encourage free and diverse expression of ideas there. Three key ones are (1) to open up state-owned radio and TV to non-government spokesmen, (2) to permit new independent radio and TV stations and (3) to allow the establishment and circulation of independent newspaper and political magazines. Unfortunately, these suggestions do not look likely to be taken up — Middle East International.

Anthony Hyman

BOOK REVIEWS

Shedding light on the Shiites

A Lebanon Defied: Musa Al Sadr And The Shi'a Community

By Majed Halawi
Westview Press, Oxford, England 1993

Shiite "radicalism" became a hot topic in the early 1980s, when an assortment of Islamic groups, most notably Hezbollah, embarked on a string of spectacular suicide bombings and the taking of Western hostages in Lebanon. The movement — for want of a better word — attracted various labels, from "Islamic fundamentalism" to "terrorism" and acquired a kind of glamourous notoriety, but it was never very clearly understood.

Majed Halawi's book is, therefore, most timely in that it clarifies the formative events of Shiite history in Lebanon, as this severely disadvantaged community struggled to gain a political voice in the country's complex confessional system. Beginning with the early split in Islam after the death of the Prophet Mohammad, Halawi goes on to explain the nature of the Shiite ideology of opposition to temporal political rule.

His objective is to chart the career of Iranian-born cleric Musa Sadr, who was responsible for rousing the "slumbering Shiites" of Lebanon and galvanising them into action. Imam Sadr's revolutionary Harakat Al-Mahrumin (Movement of the Disinherited) restored to the marginalised Shiite communities of southern Lebanon the Beqaa Valley and the sprawling slums of South Beirut sense of dignity and determination.

When verbal persuasion failed, Sadr encouraged the Shiites to take up arms, and so the Amal militia came into being. Halawi's story comes to an abrupt end, however, in 1978, when Sadr mysteriously disappeared during a visit to Libya. As for Amal,

whatever the purity of its intentions, the movement rapidly degenerated into just another armed group. Its prolonged siege of the Palestinian refugee camps in the latter part of the 1980s was unparalleled even by the barbaric standards of the Lebanese civil war.

The reasons for Amal's move to greater violence are complex. While it may be understandable that a powerless group, unable to claim its fair share of the political pie, decides upon more militant tactics as the only feasible way forward, it can also be argued that these were ultimately counter-productive. They merely replaced the quest for a more just social order with a glorification of violence for its own sake. Had Sadr not disappeared, of course, Amal may have followed a very different course.

A number of conflicting opinions have been voiced about Musa Sadr. Some consider that he "betrayed the very ideals which formed the symbolic and rhetorical core of the movement he initiated." The majority of Shiites in South Lebanon, on the other hand, regard him with respect and affection. As far as they are concerned, he did more than anyone to improve their oppressed status and set them on the road to greater participation in the Lebanese political system. But the imam's greatest legacy, as Halawi suggests, "may be the hospitals, orphanages, schools and vocational institutes established under his initiative." This book succeeds in shedding light on a hitherto murky area. In these days of sensationalising an amorphous "Islamic threat," it is both refreshing and fascinating to discover more about the stories behind the headlines. Halawi approaches the topic from two distinct perspectives: from the lofty vantage point of American political science, but also from his own reality as a Lebanese Shiite. "As the war in Lebanon progressed and America's encounter with terror intensified," he states, "I confronted the consolidation of a Manichean vision of us, the West, the altruistic and freedom-loving, versus them, the sinister, zealous and bloodthirsty. "It is, in many ways, a personal odyssey and the academic jargon occasionally sounds a little forced. On the whole, however, it is a competent piece of writing — Middle East International.

Maria Holt

Kenneth

Of cars and chips

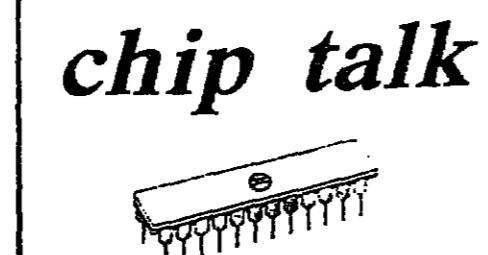
By Jean-Claude Elias

range how history repeats itself. Some of us still member, several years ago, the dramatic recall to a factory by a giant American car manufacturer of thousands of vehicles sold, after having discovered a fault in the braking system. Even more recently, a similar unfortunate happened to a Japanese car maker, though for a smaller batch of machines.

Listening, a few days ago, to the news that Intel is admitting a defect in some of their latest Pentium microprocessor models, brought back memories of the above stories. Intel is the world's most important designer, manufacturer and supplier of the heart and brain of Personal Computers (PC). The microprocessor chip, from the 80286, now out of production, to the virtually obsolete 80386, and to the popular and fast 80486 chip, Intel is literally driving the world of PCs. Their latest brainchild, the 80586 or Pentium as it is called, released one year ago, has taken the power of the machines to new heights, once again.

It is therefore no surprise that the announcement has shocked those who have already jumped on the bandwagon and purchased a Pentium, or those who are planning to do so. The news is rather reassuring. As with the car example, it confirms the clear and strong commitment of trustworthy manufacturers to their clients. While in the case of a faulty car braking system, the consumer has all the rights to worry, this for understandable personal security reasons, the case of the Pentium is in no way as dramatic.

The problem with some Pentiums — not all of the models — was a fault in the Floating Point Unit (FPU) operation. Simply put, the FPU is the part of the chip that handles advanced mathematical calculations. The fault would cause the computer to freeze — stop from working. Even those who do not use complex mathematics would suffer for there are several types of programmes and applications that use the FPU, without the user's apparent intervention. Games for instance and drawing software cannot work without FPU.



Intel has decided to replace all the faulty chips, estimated at 2 million units, at their expense, including assisting the user in doing the replacement. One can easily imagine the expenditure involved in the operation. For Intel however the stakes are higher than a few million dollars. Although the world leader — by far — of PC microprocessors, Intel cannot ignore Cyrix and AMD, who have been trying to steal a slice of the pie. The two chip manufacturers have had some success in marketing their own versions of Intel-compatible CPUs (Central Processing Unit — another name for the microprocessor) and mathematical co-processors. To maintain their superiority on the market Intel needs the users' absolute trust.

The truth is that Intel and their users badly need each other. The first for obvious business reasons, the second to run with satisfactory speed all the new, power-hungry software that keeps pouring in from Microsoft and others. For the past 15 years or so, both software and chips manufacturers have played with their users a game that doesn't seem to displease any of them. The first know that their products may have some weaknesses and let users discover and report them. The users accept the situation, as long as it leads to improved, faster products, and as long as the frequency and importance of those weaknesses remains within reasonably acceptable boundaries.

Santa Claus with plenty of new Pentium chips in his boot is certainly the dream of all the millions of PC users worldwide.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuaib

CURIOS SUPERSTITIONS

If he comes across a hunchback in the morning will have a good omen. If he touches his round rump, he will be much luckier.

A housewife who drops one of the utensils in the kitchen while arranging the cupboard may indicate the arrival of an unexpected visitor.

If it happens that she criss-crosses a knife with a fork outside a plate this will bring about misery. In case she isn't left-handed, it won't be much better to stir a drink in a cup using her left hand because this augurs that she may lose seven years from her life.

A man who fastens a lion's skin belt round his waist is said to give courage to its wearer if he lacks it.

He who eats the lion's flesh will recover from quartan fever (a disease that catches a patient for one day, leaves him two days and then comes back on the fourth day).

If a lion's eye is placed under one's armpit inside a small sock made of the lion's skin, one can get rid of animal fears.

It had been observed that some lionesses in Africa fell in love with men!

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- Don't lose your temper. La tanfa'el.
- Don't make a mess of it. La to'akid al-omoor.
- Don't give your mind to what he says. La to'irho ihtimaman.
- Don't monopolise the conversation. La tahtakir al-hadith.
- Don't interrupt me. La toqati'on.
- Don't be narrow-minded. La takon day'ekal -aqil.
- Don't get on my nerves. La tothir a-saabi.
- Don't call him bad names. — La tasobbohi.
- Don't nurse hatred for anybody. La todmir so'an le'ahad.
- Don't set them at odds. La tothir al-shiqqa baynahom.
- Don't overstep the mark. La tatsjawaaz hodoodek.
- Don't care a pin. La taktarith.
- Don't argue with me. La tojaadilai.
- Don't rely on him. La ta'tamid alay'he.
- Don't run him down. La tahot min qadrillu.
- Don't fish in troubled water. La tastad fil-maa'il akir.

INVITATION TO LAUGHTER

HUMOROUS LETTERS

Dear Madam,
Please do not beat my little son Richard. He is a very delicate boy. We never beat him at home except in self-defence.

Yours faithfully.
Mrs. Milton.

★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Mum,
French is my favourite subject and I hate it.

Your loving son,
Tom.

★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Uncle,
Our school is very good. They ask us to take bath ONCE in a month.

John.

★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Dad,
Our maths teacher seems to be crazy. Yesterday

COOKING IS FUN OVEN BAKED FISH

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 egg
- 1 T. water
- ¾ tsp. Tabasco pepper sauce
- ½ lbs. fish fillets (fresh or thawed frozen), cod, haddock perch, etc.
- 1 T. melted butter or salad oil.
- Lemon, parsley and paprika.
- salt and pepper to taste.

METHOD: Combine egg, water, Tabasco sauce, salt and pepper. Beat until well-blended.

Clean fish and dip in egg mixture. Coat generously with corn flake crumbs. Place on foil-lined baking sheet, and drizzle with melted butter or oil. Sprinkle parsley and paprika over top of fish. Bake in oven for 20-30 minutes, or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork. Serve with lemon.

PUZZLES

ANAGRAMMATICS

Solve the following three clues and from the answers arrange the letters into a twelve-letter word meaning: BAD CONDUCT. one letter has been placed to help you.



Flightless bird (3) Team (4) Nobleman's land (5).

Love bytes as life goes on

By Sameer Ghaleb Bagaeen

The advantages of the system of communication via computers through the Internet are heralded daily. But I've not yet heard anyone commend the improvement I suspect they will bring to the works, literature and social interaction, the rebirth of the love letter.

A teenage romance of the new millennium can read something like this. Hesitantly, her heart beating wildly with anticipation, she approached the modem. Entering her password with trembling fingers, she hoped against hope the green light would be flashing. It was. E-Mail Waiting. Frenziedly she called up the message. The jumble of codes, numbers and destinations sent a strange tingling through her. He had written, at last. And she was not about to let him slip through the Net.

Love letters have been the dying art form of the more recent years. But we now have the opportunity to watch how the internet of tomorrow will bring them back. At first sight, perhaps, the future seems unlikely bedfellows. The hot flush of heightened romanticism, in a setting of regimented programmes and a cursor ever eager to delete an exaggerated emoticon. But emotions have one inescapable advantage. They give their undreamed-of tenderness.

Imagination could fire the imagination, particularly, the language. The Internet is an age when lovers will not easily say each other the true, live together separated by distance and telephone. It was destined to do so, and bring the strengthened intimacy of the new millennium.

same effect. With the telephone we moved away from written communication; and now with E-Mail we are back to where we have to be articulated and thoughtful about how we send these messages.

It will not just be the Internet that electronic mail will make people more thoughtful and articulate. And it will not just be in communication across continents and countries, but even within the same building. Office workers with computer networks and simple message-sending systems have already discovered that messages sent from terminal to terminal are endowed with a lyricism and poetry, often literally, that the sender would never aspire to in a face-to-face meeting.

Faced with a plain screen and the chance to compose, the writer can emulate a number of diverse styles. More often, it's the school-studied texts of restrained courtship or swelling passion that are imitated rather than the streetwise, witty style of contemporary writers. These are vocabularies that would sound at best pretentious, at worst idiotically laughable if voiced in the corridor or canteen, but somehow acceptable, even welcomed, on a screen on a wet afternoon.

The only sad aspect about the computer's likely revival of the love letter — and it is a tragic irony — is that none of the love letters of the new millennium will survive. A touch of the keyboard and the most passionate expressions of commitment vanish for ever.

These words are dedicated to those amongst us who are in love, with the warmest of wishes for a happy and prosperous 1995.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Dec. 29

7:30 N.B.A.

8:30 Road To Avation

Sara and Aunt Olivia team up while trying to return the lost gold to its rightful owner.

9:10 The Hot Squad

Phoenix Rising

(The Hot Squad are modern-day Untouchables who more than just a tightly-knit family, also comprise special crime police unit charged with apprehending the most wanted of criminals).

The brothers fight to protect their father when vengeful explosives expert escapes from prison and seeks to even the score with him.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Good Morning Vietnam

Starring: Robin Wright

Imported by the army for an early AM radio show Cronauer, an irreverent, non-conformist doc jazz blasts the air-waves with a constant barrage of rapid-fire humour, and the hottest hits from back home.

11:30 Exile

Friday, Dec. 30

7:30 African Skies

The Hunted

Tom, Sam's younger brother, comes to hide out at the Freedom Ranch after he is the victim of an attempted assassination while in Vienna.

5:00 Hollywood Stuntmakers

8:30 You Bet Your Life

9:00 P.M. Magazine

9:30 Heart Of Courage

An attempt to save a bull from burning in India attempt to catch a hijacker in Canada.

10:00 10:15

10:20 Blanche

Upon graduation from the convent, Blanche has to choose between Napoleon's love and her burning passion for the medical profession.

11:10 Never The Twain

Saturday, Dec. 31

7:30 Harry And The Hendersons

8:00 Innovation

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:10 Murder She Wrote

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Cocktail

Starring: Tom Cruise & Elisabeth Shue

While in search of quick fame and fortune working as a fast-talking and quick-pouring bartender in a flashy New York club, Brian's life gets complicated when he meets the beautiful young artist Jordan Mooney.

11:55 Countdown To The New Year

12:00 A Rock Concert — Foreigner

1:00 A Concert From The Vatican

Sunday, Jan. 1

7:30 Celestial

8:15 The Album Show

9:00 The Hidden Room

After her husband's death, Klara is on the verge of falling in love when suddenly an apparition appears to change the entire course of her life.

9:30 Heartbeat

A local programme which deals with medical subjects pertaining to Jordan.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Miles From Home

Starring: Richard Gere & Kevin Anderson

Faced with a bitter reality and a dying dream, Frank and Terry, the two Roberts brothers, take to the road to become modern-day outlaws.

12:00 The Upper Hand

Tom frustrates his mother's expectations in him as he is engaged in arranging a date with a new girlfriend.

Monday, Jan. 2

7:30 Black Beauty

8:00 Street Hawk

9:10 Shades Of L.A.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Flight Into Hell

Two pilots get lost in a deserted coastal area where they make forced landing after their plane runs out of fuel.

11:00 Intermission (Jazz music)

Tuesday, Jan. 3

7:30 Practical Guide to the Universe

8:00 The Detectives

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:10 The Deep Probe

10:00 News In English

10:20 First Circle

Investigations continue in search of the traitors while a team attempt to liquidate the scientists responsible for running the design of the new voice invention.

11:10 The Piglet Files

Two M-15 agents are watching a house for the arrival of an East German agent. Sadly, they seem to have got it wrong and only Peter Chapman can save the day.

Wednesday, Jan. 4

7:30 Home Improvement

Tom gets himself in a bit of trouble after he makes a programme that criticises housewives.

8:00 Life In The Freezer

The programme views the Antarctic in mid-winter. Ghost-like white fish are kept alive by anti-freeze in their blood and giant sea-spiders patrol the sea bed.

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:10 Law And Order

10:00 News In English

10:20 Snowy River

Matt along with his son Robbie works tirelessly to put an end to a drought which has lately hit their territory.

11:10 Coming Of Age



Kenneth Branagh takes longest leap with new Frankenstein

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Kenneth Branagh always has possessed a young man's confidence in challenging popular beliefs — he proved it when he directed and starred in the film *Henry V* at age 28.

Laurence Olivier was 37 when he directed and starred in a lavish film version of *Henry V* in 1944. It became an instant classic, considered the best Shakespeare ever filmed. Most filmmakers dared not attempt the play again.

Undaunted, Branagh, who had appeared in two movies and directed none, undertook *Henry V*, portraying royalty and commoners alike as a scruffy, unwashed replica of what they probably had been.

The results were critical buzzups and Academy Award nominations for Best Actor and Best Picture of 1988.

Shakespeare's tragedy is a hard enough sell in the film marketplace: with the exception of *The Taming Of The Shrew*, his comedies have been totally neglected. Yet, last year, Branagh made an all-star version of *Much Ado About Nothing* that charmed critics and did acceptable box office.

Branagh has directed two modern films: *Dead Again*, a film-noir murder story, and *Peter's Friends*, a kind of British *The Big Chill* about a reunion of university graduates. Neither was well received by critics or the public.

However, the Northern Irish Branagh faced his biggest challenge with Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Although remade with variations ad finitum, the 1931 version directed by James Whale with Colin Clive as Frankenstein and Boris Karloff as the monster remains in every film buff's mind.

Branagh reviewed the earlier films and was not deterred.

"I was familiar with the James Whale versions (he also directed *The Bride Of Frankenstein*), which are the ones I know best of all. The (British-made) Hammer Films was quite familiar with as well, and I didn't enjoy them very much," he said in an interview.

"One of the things that's happened to me, I suppose, is that after the Whale films, the whole genre has been thought about as B-picture, especially the Hammer ones. I reminded myself about all these films to think about where we should go. There

was no point if our film should look like the others and sound like the others."

"I checked out all the films, including my favourite, *Mel Brooks' Young Frankenstein*. It was the summation of every parodic response to the story itself and to the brilliant ways it has been made in the past. Having seen that, I knew what we could do."

The Karloff makeup, with its platform shoes, big dome and bolt through the neck, has long been copied and parodied.

Branagh aimed to avoid

con parisons with his mentor, Robert De Niro.

"We wanted to have a patchwork man, someone put together with bits from other people, which is what happened in the book," Branagh said. "We talked to surgeons and other advisers about what sort of stitches would have been done then under the pressure of time that Dr. Frankenstein would have faced."

"We wanted him to be somebody who was in pain, as though he was covered with sores and cuts; that even as you watched him you knew what was sore."

"We also faced the problem that anybody in

the story does: To make sure (the makeup) was vivid, but within it the actor could be seen and could convey his performance in a way that would touch us, so it wouldn't be too much of a mask."

Branagh, who will be 34 on Dec. 10, published his autobiography, *Born Again*, at age 28. He is serious about his work, but he is also affable, his boyish Irish face often widening in a smile.

He and his Oscar-winning wife, Emma Thompson (*Howards End*), met in 1986 when both were cast in a BBC mini-series, *Fortunes Of War*. She has said: "I didn't know his work, but I did know he was sort of a young lion in the British theatre. It was sort of keen interest at first sight."

Interest turned to romance, and three years later they were married. Even though they have worked closely, no signs of friction have appeared. Both seem to lack the ego of such high-powered performers.

Branagh's actors adore him, says Helena Bonham Carter, who portrays his lover and wife in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*: "He has plenty of humour, and for actors he

is ideal because he knows how delicate our confidence is. So he's incredibly tactful."

Branagh was born in Belfast. His family moved to England when he was 9. As a boy he became enamoured with American movies. His all-time favourite was *The Great Escape* about allied prisoners escaping from a German PoW camp, which had an all-star cast led by the late Steve McQueen.

"I can do scenes from it... Donald Pleasance and James Garner stealing the airplane... Charles Bronson in the boat with James Coburn... a touching story that really engaged you," said Branagh.

His passion for drama brought him to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, where he dazzled everyone and walked off with the highest prize, the Bancroft Gold Medal. He immediately was cast in Julian Mitchell's play, *Another Country*, then joined the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC). His *Henry V* at 23 drew critical raves.

Branagh surprised the theatrical community by leaving the RSC to form his own Renaissance Theatre Group. His productions were electric, similar to Orson Welles'



Kenneth Branagh (left) plays the lead in Henry V with Brian Blessed as Exeter

Mercury Theatre in New York in the late 1980s.

With his film, *Henry V*, viewers made allusions

to Welles, who had filmed his masterpiece *Citizen Kane* at 25. But Branagh seems to exhibit more stability. And with a bit of Irish luck, he may have a longer, more productive career.

Louis Armstrong feted in a general resurgence

By Samuel Fromartz
Reuter

NEW YORK — Hello Dolly, Satchmo's back in town.

Louis Armstrong died in 1971 but the gravel-voiced king of the jazz trumpet is being heard more now than any time since his death.

New issues of long-lost vintage Armstrong recordings were released on CD in time for Christmas shoppers. In early December, a week-long celebration of his music was held at New York's Lincoln Centre featuring the trumpet player some call Armstrong's proudest heir — Wynton Marsalis.

"He makes me feel good about being alive

and about living in the world," Marsalis said in a recent interview.

"He's got a majestic sound, a big full round tone, and he communicates a personality of warmth and grandeur. It just makes you feel good," Marsalis said.

Marsalis, artistic director of jazz at Lincoln Centre, has come under fire for his traditionalist stance towards the music, but even critics don't fault him for a week-long programme on the father of jazz.

Record companies, meanwhile, have been combing their vaults lately and re-issuing Armstrong's hits, starting in the '90s and lasting until

What A Wonderful World — which made the charts 18 after his death after being used in the film *Good Morning, Vietnam*.

Columbia recently issued *Portrait Of An Artist As A Young Man*, 1923-1934, which presents Armstrong's seminal work that first brought him fame. For years, many of the recordings were only available to collectors of old 78 records.

Another set, *Highlights From His Decca Years*, issued by Decca, features Armstrong pieces from 1924 to 1958. Its scope is larger — spanning much of a remarkable career — but it is less comprehensive than the Columbia

series than the Columbia set.

The Queens Museum of Art's exhibit, *Louis Armstrong: A Cultural Legacy*, likens his impact on music to Picasso's effect on painting in the sense that Armstrong took what was at hand and made it thoroughly modern.

"With a gravelly voice and a heraldic trumpet he changed the world," Dan Morgenstern, director of the Institute for Jazz Studies in Newark, New Jersey, writes in the liner notes to the Columbia portrait series.

Or as bebop trumpeter, Dizzy Gillespie once said when asked about Armstrong's impact: "No him,

no me."

The Queens exhibit traces Armstrong's birth into poverty in 1901 in New Orleans through his early musical experiences in the Waifs Home For Boys, and Storyville, the city's famed red-light district.

By the time he travelled to Chicago in 1921, following his mentor, King Oliver, he was on his way to a place in history. In 1923 he made his first recording, and by 1924 was playing to crowds in New York with Fletcher Henderson's orchestra.

Armstrong's groups, the hot five and hot seven, from 1925 to 1927, had a revolutionary impact on

er, who played actively to the last years of his life and whose biggest hit was perhaps *Hello, Dolly* in the 1960s. He easily combined the roles of pop star and artist and never compromised.

He was in a dozen Hollywood movies, served as America's ambassador of jazz after World War II, appeared on scores of radio and television shows, always flashing a grin. His music conveyed a pleasure at being alive.

As the poet Langston Hughes once said: "There is something about Louis Armstrong's horn that creates spontaneous friendships."

The supermodel comes of age

By Marie-Dominique Follain
Agence France Presse

PARIS — Feted with increasing frequency on newspaper front pages, supermodels are venturing forth from the catwalks and have come of age as a multi-media phenomenon.

For the bottom line is:

Their images nurtured by the press and their egos massaged by agents, they have replaced actresses and princesses as the idols of the popular imagination — and exploited their celebrity by branching out into music, literature, television and the gossip columns.

For the bottom line is: everything Claudia Schiffer, Linda Evangelista, and Naomi Campbell (Campbell) touch seems to turn to gold, both for themselves and their worldly-wise entourage.

In October Campbell, a Jamaican-born Briton, published her first novel *Sweat*, predictably enough a ghost-written tale of a young model's rocky path to fame and fortune.

Despite being panned by the critics it has sold well! — including 45,000 copies shifted in France in a single month. She also cut an album which has to date, however, failed to capture the popular imagination.

Meanwhile Schiffer, a German, has published a book of pictorial memoirs, while featuring as a go-sip magazine regular with or

In the 20 minutes she agreed to devote to AFP out of her jam-packed schedule, she showed herself every inch the well-coached media celebrity — plugging her product while giving away nothing about her private life.

The book, she stressed, was "not an autobiography, but a work about my professional life" written after she received sacks of letters asking for details about a supermodel's daily grind.

She chose Monaco as her home because she feels "secure" in the principality's streets, she added. And no, she had no intention of revealing when she and Copperfield planned to tie the knot.

Others of their ilk, including Cindy Crawford and Elle MacPherson, have been given their own television shows. They also plug workout cassettes — a marketing ploy given the patina of credibility by Jane Fonda — or earn millions of dollars for lending their faces to perfume producers.

Schiffer and Crawford, for instance, are under contract to Revlon.

Crawford's pulling power was illustrated at the start of December, when the announcement that she and her sex-symbol Buddhist husband Richard Gere were separating after three years of

without her equally high-profile fiance, U.S. magician David Copperfield.

In

the

20

minutes

she

agreed

to

devote

to

AFP

out

of

her

jam-

packed

schedule

she

showed

herself

every

inch

the

well-

coached

media

celebrity

—

she

re-

laxed

every-

thing

in

her

life

she

had

no

time

for

intervi-

ews

or

con-

cerns

or

com-

ments

or

con-

cerns

Frogs, toads and flies may yield new drugs

By Ben Hirschler
Reuter

LONDON — Scientists are studying a bizarre menagerie of creatures including frogs, toads, snakes, flies, leeches and sharks in the search for new medicines.

Chemicals found in their bodies may help treat a range of human ailments, including high blood pressure, difficult to cure infections and even cancer, they believe.

The idea of tapping nature for pharmaceuticals is not new. A quarter of western prescription drugs

are based on plant-derived substances and five of the world's top 30 drugs come from fungi.

But now the "bio-prospecting" net is being cast wider.

According to speakers at a "drugs from nature" conference here, the potential of the animal kingdom is huge.

Amphibians alone produce an "awe-inspiring" number and diversity of compounds in glands on their skin, said Dr. Barry Clarke of London's Natural History Museum.

He believes chemicals from frogs and toads may

have particular value in treating skin and respiratory infections.

Special interest is centred on how certain creatures with only a rudimentary immune system manage to survive in a hostile environment teeming with pathogenic bacteria and fungi.

The key appears to be the production of a series of complex molecules called peptides which provide a potent defence system against potentially lethal microbes.

Peptides isolated from the African clawed toad, called magainins, are

already being tested in the United States by major pharmaceuticals.

Results of an early clinical trial on impetigo, a childhood skin infection, proved disappointing, but the concept of using peptides is attracting considerable interest from drug researchers and companies.

Scientists at Tokyo University are working on a peptide called sapecin found in the blood-like substance, haemolymph, in fly larvae. Sapecin appears to be a powerful antibiotic which protects

young maggots from the billions of bacteria which swarm in their natural habitat — rotten meat.

The Tokyo researchers are now working with this chemical to produce a simpler version, small enough to pass through the human digestive system without being destroyed by gastric juices. The prize could be a new tablet capable of fighting the growing number of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Sharks, too, may have an in-built anti-microbial system, this time based on a novel steroid compound called squalamine which

appears to protect them from infection.

In some disease areas, animal-based drugs have already arrived.

Antihistamines, a new class of heart drugs, were originally derived from the venom of the Brazilian pit viper. Drug designers have refined the original product and synthesised a version which could be given by mouth.

The first such oral antihistamine, marketed by Bristol-Myers Squibb as capoten, has been on the market since 1981, and last year it clocked up global sales of \$1.8 billion.

Other venoms may also prove of medicinal value.

Professor Eugene Grishin of the Russian Academy of Sciences believes, since they affect a host of cellular systems. And the chemical venom pool is immense, with 20 different toxins isolated from just one species of scorpion.

One creature with a long history of medical use which may be about to make a comeback is the leech.

Used for centuries for blood-letting and the removal of "diseased blood", the leech contains a variety of chemicals in

its saliva which stop blood from clotting.

Ciba-Geigy has now developed a genetically-engineered version of one of these compounds, hirudin, which pharmaceutical analysts expect to reach the market in 1996.

Dr. Robert Wallis of Biopharm UK — the world's only commercial leech farm — believes hirudin is only one of several substances in leech saliva which could play an important role in controlling acute coronary syndromes and thrombosis in future.

Recycling unused medicines

By Florence Raynal

Protecting the environment, helping poor countries and avoiding accidents in the home are the three aims of a simple gesture, that of systematically taking one's unused medicines back to the chemist's. Cyclamed takes care of the rest.

PARIS — "Together, let us form the medicine chain. Let us recover your packaging and unused medicines. Some people lack your unused medicines. And nature does not need them. Return them to your chemist." The message of the Cyclamed association, created under the auspices of the National Order of Pharmacists, are clear, direct and easily understood. The green bags, handed out to customers in dispensaries, come back full. The mobilisation of the profession is widespread. This is revealed by the results of the survey carried out in the Limousin which is the first region in France to have set up this new system of collecting unused medicines, in November 1993.

Backed by the further success obtained in the Loire region, Cyclamed extended the operation

and now, every two months, a new region adopts the system. After Brittany and Aquitaine, it is now the turn of the Ile-de-France region, around Paris, and the North, and the government, supporting the action which is to be maintained, fully intends to have the system extended to the whole of France by the end of the year.

2 birds with 1 stone

The process is simple, at least judging by appearances. There is the message broadcast by the means of publicity used by Cyclamed (posters and stickers) and then there

are the measures taken by the chemist who hands out recyclable bags to his customers and urges households to have the reflex of bringing back their unused medicines and the packaging, but nothing else. Objects which cut or prick as

well as soiled dressings are not accepted.

In the dispensary, the items are roughly sorted out. The packaging and out-of-date medicines are put on one side and items which can be used for humanitarian purposes, on the other. The former, left in their green bags, are put into a big cardboard box with "to be destroyed" written on it in red letters. When it is full, it is collected by the wholesaler and distributor on his round and placed in a packed skip located at the distribution agency. Its contents are then recovered by professionals who will see that they are incinerated in a plant which respects the standards in force, which, with the environmental and public health constraints, is, at present, the most appropriate means of eliminating such products, making it possible to produce energy.

The second lot, placed in cardboard boxes with usable unused medicines written on the side in green letters, are made available to "serious" charity organisations, having signed Cyclamed's conditions, by which they

undertake to sort out the contents under the control of a pharmacist and not to use the medicines for illicit or commercial purposes. Four humanitarian organisations have already signed this charter which enables them to lastingly enlarge their collection of medicines. These are Pharmaciens Sans Frontieres, Terre Des Hommes, The Order Of Malta and Terre D'Amite. Other organisations have to get directly in touch with the latter ones. Moreover, Cyclamed is responsible for destroying any waste remaining from the further sorting of the medicines by the association according to its needs.

In addition to protecting the environment by saving medicines, which are usually put in the dustbin, from being dumped, and participating in aid for poor countries, the system has the advantage of improving public health as it limits the numerous accidents in the home by poisoning from medicines.

An obligation made law

The system originated for two main reasons. First of all, it was noted that, of the 18 million tonnes of annual household waste in France (which is about a kilo per person per day), some 60,000 tonnes come from medicines, 95 per cent of which is simply the containers: glass (phials and bottles), paper and cardboard (leaflets and packaging), plastic (blister-packs from pills and capsules, and tubes), and aluminium (tubes from ointments, aerosols, etc.). The second reason is pressure from new environment laws. Indeed, a decree, in force since January 1993, forces industrialists to

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

- Rams and tups are adult males. Ewes are adult females. Wethers are castrated males. Gimmers are ewes between their first and second shearing. Togs and hogs are sheep between weaning (at three months) and their first (at fifteen). Lambs are not yet weaned.
- (a) He who hesitates is lost.
(b) Handsome is that handsome does.
(c) Absence makes the heart grow fonder.
(d) It's never too late to mend.
(e) Too many cooks spoil the broth.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

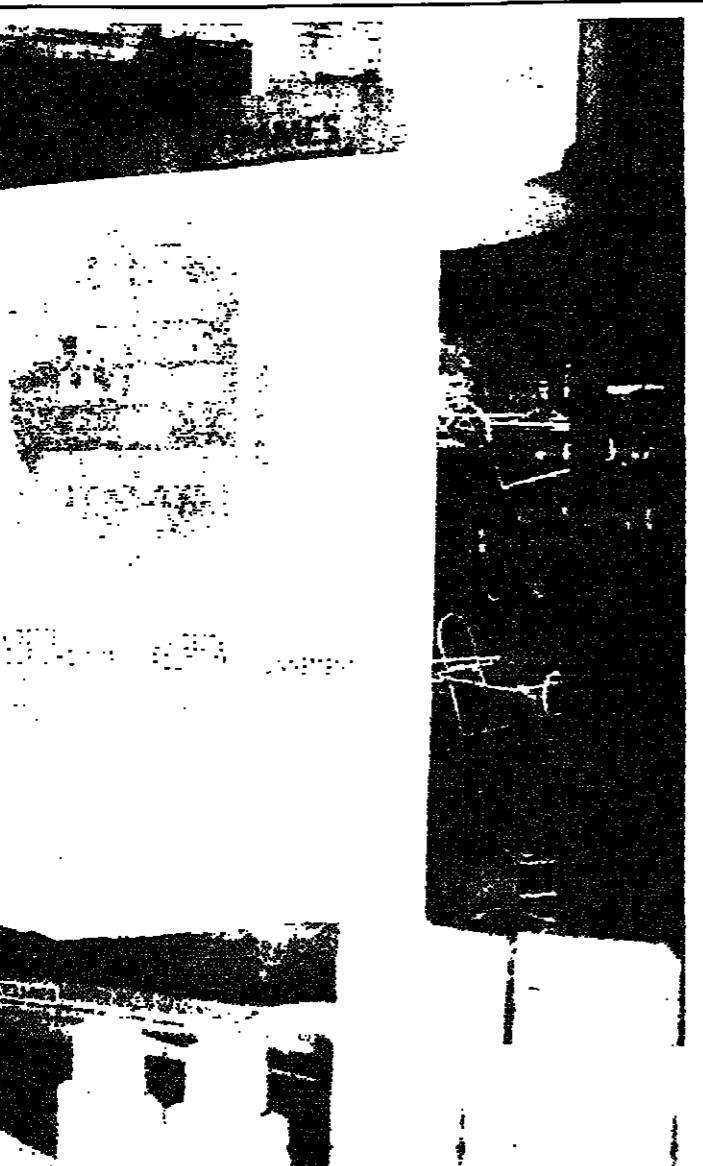
- Proton, electron, atom, filterable virus, microbe, shooting star, comet, moon, earth, sun.
- The age of a tree can be told, when it is cut down, by counting the number of rings, each one of which is the product of a year's growth.

The age of a horse can be told, up to eight years, by examining its teeth, since certain marks on them disappear each year.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

PUZZLES

- EMU, SIDE, MANOR,
MISDEMEANOUR.



To preserve the environment Cyclamed recycles unused medicines and help poor countries

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

TA-DAH!

By Harvey Chew

ACROSS
1. Phony
2. Aphrodite's land
3. Metal bracket
4. Swift
5. High over
19. Doubtless —
19. — Krishna
20. Abstinent
21. Abstinent's excess
21. Plant Man pre
22. Of high excellence
24. Wholesome thing
26. Flight
27. Inconclusive type
30. Insufficient
31. Muscular tone
31. — (help out)
32. West
34. Summer
35. Pays
37. Down
38. Drove
39. In the neck
40. Local vestment
41. Playful
42. Theory in aerobatics
43. Out of the world
44. Wanderer
45. Sign
46. Stylish
47. Wood
48. Connivance
49. Canadian Indian
50. Womankind
51. — (help out)
52. Seal
53. Author of "The Fountainehead"
54. Engrossed
55. Metal bracket
56. Poetry happens
57. Opening for anchor cable
58. Eared seal
59. Author of "The Great Gatsby"
60. Show off
61. — (help out)
62. City on the Aire
63. Mountain trail
64. — (help out)
65. Land
66. Python
67. Peered
68. Coeur à ... la fois
69. — (help out)
70. Serre-herbe
71. Corday's weapon
72. — (help out)
73. Chess piece
74. Start of a race
75. Channel markers
76. — (help out)
77. — (help out)
78. — (help out)
79. — (help out)
80. — (help out)
81. — (help out)
82. — (help out)
83. — (help out)
84. — (help out)
85. — (help out)
86. — (help out)
87. — (help out)
88. — (help out)
89. — (help out)
90. — (help out)
91. — (help out)
92. — (help out)
93. — (help out)
94. — (help out)
95. — (help out)
96. — (help out)
97. — (help out)
98. — (help out)
99. — (help out)
100. — (help out)
101. — (help out)
102. — (help out)
103. — (help out)
104. — (help out)
105. — (help out)
106. — (help out)
107. — (help out)
108. — (help out)
109. — (help out)
110. — (help out)
111. — (help out)
112. — (help out)
113. — (help out)
114. — (help out)
115. — (help out)
116. — (help out)
117. — (help out)
118. — (help out)
119. — (help out)
120. — (help out)
121. — (help out)
122. — (help out)
123. — (help out)
124. — (help out)
125. — (help out)
126. — (help out)
127. — (help out)
128. — (help out)
129. — (help out)
130. — (help out)
131. — (help out)
132. — (help out)
133. — (help out)
134. — (help out)
135. — (help out)
136. — (help out)
137. — (help out)
138. — (help out)
139. — (help out)
140. — (help out)
141. — (help out)
142. — (help out)
143. — (help out)
144. — (help out)
145. — (help out)
146. — (help out)
147. — (help out)
148. — (help out)
149. — (help out)
150. — (help out)
151. — (help out)
152. — (help out)
153. — (help out)
154. — (help out)
155. — (help out)
156. — (help out)
157. — (help out)
158. — (help out)
159. — (help out)
160. — (help out)
161. — (help out)
162. — (help out)
163. — (help out)
164. — (help out)
165. — (help out)
166. — (help out)
167. — (help out)
168. — (help out)
169. — (help out)
170. — (help out)
171. — (help out)
172. — (help out)
173. — (help out)
174. — (help out)
175. — (help out)
176. — (help out)
177. — (help out)
178. — (help out)
179. — (help out)
180. — (help out)
181. — (help out)
182. — (help out)
183. — (help out)
184. — (help out)
185. — (help out)
186. — (help out)
187. — (help out)
188. — (help out)
189. — (help out)
190. — (help out)
191. — (help out)
192. — (help out)
193. — (help out)
194. — (help out)
195. — (help out)
196. — (help out)
197. — (help out)
198. — (help out)
199. — (help out)
200. — (help out)
201. — (help out)
202. — (help out)
203. — (help out)
204. — (help out)
205. — (help out)
206. — (help out)
207. — (help out)
208. — (help out)
209. — (help out)
210. — (help out)
211. — (help out)
212. — (help out)
213. — (help out)
214. — (help out)
215. — (help out)
216. — (help out)
217. — (help out)
218. — (help out)
219. — (help out)
220. — (help out)
221. — (help out)



Publishers thrive on royal saga

By Allen Nachman
Agence France Presse

LONDON — In 1994, Prince Charles admitted cheating on his wife, his wife was said to have cheated on him, and his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, decided to drill for oil in the garden.

Also in 1994, leaked documents showed hundreds of royal staff and courtiers living the good life, rent-free, in royal palaces, raising a public furor and prompting calls for a leaner, Scandinavian-style monarchy.

As an aside, the queen's estranged daughter-in-law, Sarah Ferguson, the Duchess of York, announced she had twice been tested for AIDS, and days later a Texas woman who said she was dying of AIDS alleged she and Ferguson once had the same lover, "business advisor" John Bryan.

All in all, it was not the best of years for Britain's royal family coming after the "annus horribilis," which was how Elizabeth II characterised 1992, the year the gentle and insulated 69-year-old monarch seemed to discover the real world.

In that year, like a nightmarish real-time soap opera, the marriages of three of her four children fell apart — two sons separated and a daughter divorced — all giddily chronicled by a cannibalistic tabloid press hungry for royal flesh.

This year, news of the royal marriage-go-round was more orderly, with the juiciest morsels dished up not ambush-style by the tabloids but in three best-selling books and a national television interview with Prince Charles.

Last June, in an unprecedented one-on-one with journalist Jonathan Dimbleby, Prince Charles candidly opened up about his life as heir to the throne of England, his marriage to Diana and their separation.

Once their 10-year marriage was irreconcilable on the rocks, he did stray into adultery, said Prince Charles, validating long-standing rumours of his relationship with Camilla Parker Bowles, wife of an army brigadier.

In October, a book entitled "Princess In Love" chronicled an alleged five-year affair between Princess Diana and army Major James Hewitt, her son's riding instructor.

The book, by tabloid journalist Anna Pasternak, was written in the style of a teen romantic novel, dwelling on a candlelight dinner in Kensington Palace that prefaced the first night: "... and she took his hand and led him to her bedroom."

The book was translated into 22 languages and reportedly made a bundle for all concerned.

Princess Diana drew sympathy. Maj. Hewitt, whose grinning face adorned the book jacket, was roundly cast as a "kiss-and-tell rat."

Next came "The Prince of Wales," an "authorised biography" by Dimbleby in which Prince Charles whinges about his miserable childhood in which he was bullied by schoolmates, forsaken by a disinterested mother and disdained by a cold and demanding father who eventually pushed him into a loveless marriage.

Prince Charles' father, the Duke of Edinburgh, granted a newspaper interview to say he had never aired family business in public, and neither had Queen Elizabeth, considered a sound rebuke of his son's candor.

Last on the year's royal publishing bandwagon was "Diana, Her New Life," a sequel by author Andrew Morton to his 1992 book, "Diana, Her True Story," which portrayed the princess as a lonely, desperate woman trapped in a loveless marriage, who had tried suicide.

The new Morton book portrays an entirely new Diana, happy and free, thinking about remarrying and having more kids but not — yet — about divorce, which would raise major legal complications having to do with her future as queen.

The current queen was meanwhile suffering criticism for allowing wildcatters to drill on the grounds of Windsor Castle, said to sit on 100 million barrels of oil.

By Velisarios Kattoulas
Reuter

TOKYO — Could it happen in Japan?

Listen to Nozomi Sato (not her real name), who likes nothing better than a marijuana joint to soothe her nerves after a hard day's work in the heart of Japanese industry.

"I don't drink, don't steal, and don't create trouble, so what's wrong with smoking joints?" she asks.

Police, drug counsellors and a journalist who interviewed scores of drug users and dealers this month for a major magazine, are hearing her question more and more and shuddering at what may lie ahead.

"When I was at Kyoto University 10 years ago there were just two types of Japanese using drugs: artist types and yakuza (gangsters)," said Hiromichi Uyaga, whose article on Japanese drug use has set off a debate about whether this country is headed down a familiar road.

"Now it seems like everybody from high-school and university students to typical salarymen (white collar workers) and housewives are doing drugs," said Mr. Uyaga, who returned home in July after two years at New York's Columbia University.

"It's now as easy to buy drugs in Tokyo as it is in New York," he said.

Shigemi Hirano, deputy director of the National Police Agency's (NPA) drug enforcement division, said many Japanese were getting "a taste for drugs" in America, Europe and South East Asia and then continuing to use them back in Japan.

Some social workers believe the problem is homegrown as Japanese turn to drugs to escape the cradle-to-grave demand for hard work and discipline.

In response to the demand, and in a search for new income to overcome Japan's recession, mobsters are increasingly turning to drug smuggling and dealing. Mr. Hirano said.

Police believe that as the European and American drug markets become more difficult because of crackdowns, Latin American and Chinese gangs are targeting Japan.

Japan heading down a familiar drug road



"It's now as easy to buy drugs in Tokyo as it is in New York" (File photo)

Drug dealers with portable phones now hang around in many big Tokyo parks. They usually ask customers to stash money in one place while they stash drugs elsewhere.

Police admit drug use is rising, but insist it is not yet a big problem.

"Drug use in Japan has been rising since the early 1970s when the hippie movement took off in America," said Mr. Hirano. "But it's not a problem like it is in America. Japanese police seized hundreds of kilos of drugs

last year, while American police probably seized hundreds of tonnes."

Despite the relatively small seizures, drugs are not new to Japan. It was Japanese chemists who back in the mid-1800s discovered metamphetamines — or speed.

In World War II Japanese authorities gave "speed" to arms factory workers, to arms factory workers, to make them work more, and there has always been speculation that drugs were given to the "kamikaze" suicide pilots to lessen

their fear of going to die.

Like drug seizures, drug-related arrests are also small by international standards.

In 1993 less than 20,000 people were arrested, 15,252

for speed, 1,933 for cannabis, and 312 for cocaine and heroin.

But Father Roy Aschenheimer, co-founder in 1985 of the Drug Addiction Rehabilitation Centre (DARC), said that the number of users is probably much higher, and likely to rise further.

"You have to remember that denial is a very important part of Japanese society," said Father Roy, referring to the police's reluctance to admit widespread drug use.

Speaking at a Tokyo coffee shop he visits every day, he pointed to two men across the room.

"If you asked them, they could get drugs for you," he said.

Father Roy has witnessed a lot of suffering since he co-founded Japan's first drug

rehabilitation centre, which now has 30 branches nationwide treating some 500 people a day.

"A lot of young people take hash and LSD, but they get them from being hooked on something else first," he said.

So far, rising drug use has brought little of the violent drug crime that many American and European cities suffer.

That may be changing. This year there has been an unprecedented wave of yaku-

Leave Earth before it's too late, Carl Sagan warns

By Jane Arraf
Reuter

NEW YORK — When Carl Sagan was a child, he looked up at the stars and wondered what was out there. Now the celebrity astronomer looks back at the view of Earth from outer space and wonders whether there will be anything left here.

Mr. Sagan's latest book, "Pale Blue Dot," examines the planet we live on, a tiny speck of dust in a vast universe, and warns that we must reach out and colonise other worlds before it's too late.

According to Mr. Sagan there is now a consensus among scientists that the odds of a major asteroid slamming into Earth are alarmingly high — much higher than being killed in an airline crash or winning a lottery jackpot.

"The probability that the Earth will be hit by a civilisation-threatening small

world in the next century is a little less than one in a thousand," Mr. Sagan told Reuters in a recent interview. "The probability of dying on a random commercial airline flight is one in two million."

The impact, which Mr. Sagan likens to the catastrophe 65 million years ago which many scientists believe wiped out the dinosaurs and much of other living things on Earth, would send up a thick pall of particles, darkening and then cooling the Earth — wiping out the agricultural base that feeds the Earth's more than five billion people.

The U.S. House of Representatives Science Committee has proposed requiring the U.S. space agency NASA to map by the year 2005 all Earth-approaching comets and asteroids but the bill has not been passed.

"We live amidst a swarm of comets and asteroids and sooner or later a group of them is going to hit us," said Mr. Sagan. "If we wish to

prevent that disaster we are going to have to be in space," he said.

That would mean increased space exploration, manned and robotic — not an easy feat in an era of cost-cutting and a climate in which NASA receives less than five per cent of the funding of U.S. defence spending.

But while space exploration, still in its infancy, has found no signs of life in this solar system, many scientists believe that beyond our tiny corner of the galaxy, the vast universe must be brimming with life.

"... for all our conceits about being the centre of the universe we live in a routine planet of a humdrum star stuck away in an obscure corner... on an unexceptional galaxy which is one of about 100 billion galaxies," Mr. Sagan said, summing up one of the messages of "Pale Blue Dot."

"That is the fundamental fact of the universe we in-

habit and it is very good for us to understand that," he said.

Although manned space exploration has stalled in the 25 years since the United States — in what Mr. Sagan describes as a cold war power play — sent men to the moon, some are still reaching out and listening.

For a NASA programme to listen for radio waves in space for signs of intelligent life, private donors have come up with \$7 million to revive the project, which will hit the intergalactic air from Australia next year.

Somewhere in space, the two Voyager spacecraft in their journey through the milky way are carrying golden phonograph records with greetings in 59 human languages and one whale language and Earth sounds ranging from a pygmy girl's initiation song to Chuck Berry's rock tune "Johnny b goode".

Mr. Sagan, whose books and television programmes

have explained the mysteries of the universe to millions of people around the world, says "we must explore other worlds for our own survival."

We have lost touch with the heavens since our ancestors first followed the stars and named the days of the week after the planets. We have lost touch with the moon, some are still reaching out and listening.

"There's a huge hunger that people all over the world have to understand science," Mr. Sagan said, explaining what he said was the astounding success of "cosmos" — the public television series which reached half a billion people in 60 countries and rocketed him to international stardom.

"We arrange a society built on science and technology and make sure that almost no one understands science and technology — that's the clearest prescription for disaster imaginable," he said.

Mr. Sagan, whose books and television programmes

have kept up a steady pace of writing, lobbying and public projects in his life-long

effort to explain the mysteries of the universe to millions of people around the world, says "we must explore other worlds for our own survival."

Although man's space exploration has stalled in the 25 years since the United States — in what Mr. Sagan describes as a cold war power play — sent men to the moon, some are still reaching out and listening.

The astronomer and astrophysicist, now 60, is not resting on the runaway success of "cosmos" — which was also the best-selling book on space in the English language.

In his latest book, subtitled "A Vision of the Human Future in Space", Mr. Sagan runs through what we have learned about the solar system and what we have yet to learn.

The book also answers the plaintive question in the Bob Dylan song "Blowin' in the wind" — how many years can a mountain exist before it is washed to the sea? (about 10 million years).

Since almost dying in a botched appendectomy several years ago, Mr. Sagan

(Continued from page 1)

without permission.

Orient House said in a

statement.

The law streng-

then

whose final status is

negotiated in 1996 w

the

and

to

the

and

Economy

Japan's current account surplus rises in Asia, falls in Europe

KYODO (AFP) — Japan's current account surplus with the United States grew by 20.7 per cent to \$8 billion in the first half of the year but the balance of payments revealed some deficits, figures from the finance ministry showed yesterday.

The balance with Britain fell from a surplus to a deficit, and deficits with France and Italy grew markedly.

A surplus in trade with the European Union was far outweighed by a deficit in tourism.

The current account surplus with the United States eased by 15.4 per cent to \$2 billion, but the surplus of the European Union swelled by 36.8 per cent to \$9 billion.

An already strong surplus of Asia grew on strong exports and increased income from regional investment, the ministry said.

The ministry's regional breakdown of Japan's balance of payments, issued a year ago, also showed that surpluses in the long-term capital account in the six months to June mainly reflected inflows from Britain

and the United States.

During the first half, the current account surplus with Asia, excluding China and other communist countries, showed the fastest growth for any region.

The overall surplus, measuring trade in both goods and services, was up by 1.6 per cent from the figure a year earlier to \$68.4 billion.

A ministry official said that the sharper increase in the imbalance with Asia coincided with booming exports of semiconductors to the region as well as buoyant shipments of chemicals, processed metals and automotive parts. As a result, the trade surplus alone grew by 17.5 per cent to \$34.6 billion.

Japan's invisible trade deficit with Asia, measuring services such as tourism, shrank from \$920 million to \$67 million, despite sharp increases in the country's transportation and travel deficits with the region.

The main factor behind the smaller invisible deficit was a surge in investment income, which saw net inflows more than double from \$1.3 billion to \$2.9 billion. Such income covers both interest and dividends.

Japan's current account deficits with other major trading partners in the Asia-Pacific region expanded during the six months.

The deficit with China ballooned from \$531 million to \$1.9 billion, mainly as a result of a bigger trade deficit.

The deficit with Australia expanded by 52.4 per cent to \$1.5 billion, reflecting both a larger trade shortfall and a smaller surplus in invisible trade.

The trade surplus with Germany narrowed by 24.5 per cent from the figure a year earlier to \$4.1 billion.

But the imbalance with Britain swung from a surplus of \$2.4 billion to a deficit of \$3.2 billion.

Japan's deficits with other major European trading partners widened, with the deficit with France expanding 34.7 per cent to \$849 million and that with Italy jumping from \$6 million to

\$703 million.

Other figures released by the ministry Wednesday showed that the \$12.5 billion worth of long-term capital flowing into Japan during the six-month period had come mainly from the United States and Britain.

The net inflows, which reversed net outflows of 27.4 billion yen in the same period last year, included \$12.6 billion from Britain and \$9.1 billion from the United States, the ministry said.

Inflows from both countries largely reflected heavy British and American buying of Japanese securities, about \$24 billion each in net purchases.

At the same time, Japanese investors slashed purchases of securities from the United States although net purchases of securities from Britain rose modestly.

Other major net inflows included \$5.9 billion from Asia, \$5.3 billion from Canada, \$1.8 billion each from both France and Australia, \$1.7 billion from Germany and \$1.3 billion from Italy.

Turkey to issue one million lira banknote next month

ANKARA (R) — Turkey, beset by triple-digit inflation, is to introduce a one-million-lira (\$36) bank note, Anatolian News Agency said Wednesday.

The note will go into circulation on Jan. 16, less than two years after the current largest bank note, worth 500,000 liras, was introduced, the agency said.

The economy is growing under an annual wholesale inflation rate of 11 per cent, predicted to rise to about 140 per cent for all of 1994.

"FASHIONS CHANGE, BUT STYLE ENDURES."

DAJANI'S Gold & Gems

Arma Hotel Arman

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1994

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carol Righter Foundation
GENERAL TENDENCIES: You can spend a very happy day at home if you don't allow someone to interfere with your pleasure by changing your schedule. Avoid one who is jealous of you and doesn't think logically.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Find the right way to get your plans working out advantageous. Know what it is that the one you love expects of you at this time.

T A U R U S: (April 20 to May 20) If you apply yourself seriously, you can gain personal aims quickly and easily. Be sure you pay your own way for amusements with friends.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Know how to gain greater prestige in the outside world, then follow through with ideas. Spend the evening at home with your loved ones.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have fine new ambitions and should get them in operation as soon as possible. Your intuition is working famously for you.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be sure to state your aims with those with whom you deal in practical matters. The evening can be very warm with your mate for romance.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Be sure you understand your partners' ideas and motivations for better relations between you. Be wise and knowledgeable about any projects.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Put that plan to work which can help to become more efficient at your duties. Listen to the ideas of others you come in contact with.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is a good day to contact good friends and plan the recreations which appeal the most to you. Be very happy, though with your mate.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Begin to plan for the weekend so that all will go more smoothly for you. Invite fascinating individuals into your home for some laughs.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Let your mood be light in dealing with your partners today and get better results on activities. Drive wisely so you do not get into trouble.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is a fine day to delve into practical matters and hit on the right plan for gaining more prosperity and success in your activities.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be more concerned with personal matters, and do your best to gain your fondest aims. Show that you are fond of good friends and associates.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise - Zircon

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1994

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carol Righter Foundation
GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until noon, don't give the appearance of trying to find out from companions just what they are trying to do or they will resent it. You will feel that you want to get out of your promise, but won't.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Early go after your finest ambitions and gain them. Complete that matter with a good friend. Make new contacts in the evening.

T A U R U S: (April 20 to May 20) Be sure to keep promises you have made to friends and loved ones in the morning. Let the evening be a happy one with the one you love.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Spend the morning handling vocational activities well. Have more consideration for your family in the evening and there will be happiness.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Carry on with talks with some fascinating new contacts in the morning. Complete studies on some new, interesting course of action.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Early get your bills paid and make collections which are possible. Then get into activities which appeal to you the most.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) More talks with partners are needed before you can get agreements worked out right. Be charming with the one you love tonight.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Use neat touch and fine finish on tasks you are doing. Get together with dynamic fellow associates for good results. Use your finest talents.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Show more devotion for your mate, and then get right into the tasks ahead of you. Plan entertainment with friends and loved ones wisely.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Handle tasks connected with kin early in the day. Join friends for fun to relieve tension and pressure you are under.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Clear your desk of all that paper work in the morning, and later you can entertain others who can be helpful to you on new activities.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Take care of important business matters, then you can run off to pleasures which please you very much and you will be refreshed for next week.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Early handle that immediate affair, then do whatever will improve any property you may have. Visit friends early this evening.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise - Zircon

THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



"If I gain any more weight over the holidays, I'll have to wear swaddling clothes to the New Year's party!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SMUNI

ZAUER

DORRAM

URREBB

Answer here:

(Answers Monday)

PAVCR

HAEN

VIRLE

VORTEX

VALATHER

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

(Answers Monday)

YESTERDAY'S

Jumble: PAVCR

Answer: When the washing machine broke a leg — VALATHER

THE Daily Crossword

by Kenneth White

ACROSS

1. I eat badly

5. Turnip barrel

9. Ground grain

13. Carrot

15. Lettuce

16. Glue, especially

17. Draw

18. Small part of great name

19. Neat

20. Small step for a person

21. Random or wild

24. Knight's ride

25. Marketing

26. Author's name

27. Type of person

28. Early wake

29. Head of state and family

30. Desires

41. Concrete pier

42. Candidate

43. Takers

44. Pudding

45. Man

46. Enclosed

47. Foliage

48. Plants

49. Roots

50. Flowers

51. Roots

52. Flowers

53. Roots

54. Flowers

55. Roots

56. Flowers

57. Roots

58. Flowers

59. Roots

60. Flowers

61. Roots

62. Flowers

63. Roots

64. Flowers

65. Roots

66. Flowers

67. Roots

68. Flowers

69. Roots

70. Flowers

71. Roots

72. Flowers

73. Roots

74. Flowers

75. Roots

76. Flowers

77. Roots

78. Flowers

79. Roots

80. Flowers

81. Roots

82. Flowers

**Business
daily
Beat**

A review
of economic news
from the Arabic press

DEF: Jobless rate is 28%

★ ★ Development and Employment Fund (DEF) Director-General Ali Jaddou said that a field survey has shown unemployment was standing at 28 per cent. The survey showed the highest jobless rate to be in Amman, Zarqa and Irbid. Percentages of people looking for jobs are 38 per cent in Amman, 30 per cent in Irbid, 16 per cent in Zarqa, seven per cent in Balqa, four per cent in Karak, two per cent in Mafraq and one per cent in Tafleeh. Mr. Jaddou said the DEF budget for 1995 amounted to JD 10 million, of which JD 2.5 million to be provided by the government and the rest by the European Union and the German Bank for Reconstruction. The DEF chief pointed out that although the fund was set up to help the most needy, 60-70 per cent of those who received loans were not so deprived to qualify for the loan. Still, DEF financed 894 projects for individuals this year for a total of JD 3.6 million and helped provide 1,300 job opportunities. DEF has spent JD 8 million and provided 4,600 work opportunities since it was set up in 1992. The fund aims to finance 1,500 projects and provide 3,000 job opportunities next year (Al Aswaq).

★ ★ Trading in shares of the Jordan Industrial Resources Company and the Jordan Investment and Finance Bank was stopped temporarily pending a decision by the minister of industry and trade on a price of new shares to be privately subscribed in order to raise the capital of the companies (Al Aswaq).

★ ★ The Amman Chamber of Commerce is requesting all institutions and companies to fill a special form it has designed to collect up-to-date information about the commercial sector. The form will be distributed upon payment of membership fees for 1995 (Al Ra'i).

★ ★ A five-star hotel will be built close to Al Waha circle which is now an intersection with traffic lights at the end of the Gardens Street (Wasfi Al Tel Street). The hotel is to be part of an investment in a huge complex (Al Aswaq).

★ ★ The Housing and Urban Development Corporation will start implementing more than 17 projects, estimated to cost JD 89 million, at the onset of the new year. The projects, which include expansions at some housing estates in Sahab, Ajloun, Jerash, Ramtha and Aqaba, also cover projects at Abu Neir, Sahiyet Al Abed, Al Zawahreh, Marka, Tareq, Al Jizeh, Irbid, Umm Qais, Karak, Ma'an and Mafraq (Al Ra'i).

★ ★ The General Budget Department is putting the final touches on the budgets of 20 financially and administratively independent government institutions. The budgets of these 20 entities, amounting to no less than JD 550 million, will be forwarded in early January to the Lower House of Parliament for review and discussions. It is the first time that budgets of independent government institutions are submitted to the Lower House and its Financial Committee for debate in response to a request by the House (Al Ra'i).

★ ★ The chairman of the Israeli chamber of commerce is expected to visit the Kingdom in early January. The Israeli official will reportedly meet Jordanian officials at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, chamber of commerce and the Federation of the Chambers of Commerce (Al Dustour).

★ ★ The cost of preparing the agricultural policy, the first draft of which was completed by the Ministry of Agriculture, is estimated at \$750,000, to be covered by U.S. financing (Al Dustour).

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - SWEITIYEH TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170 ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 28/12/1994						
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED	PRIY. TRADED	CLOSING PRICE	CHARGE	JD PRICE
ARAB BANK	1220	222540	182.250	181.500		
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	469956	265780	4.350	4.480		
BANK OF JORDAN	69550	109209	1.570	1.590		
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	114075	342133	2.980	2.900		
THE HOUSING BANK	116550	397027	5.650	5.700		
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	130	3456	2.990	3.050		
JORDAN GULF BANK	3450	5466	1.500	1.550		
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	500	1846	3.550	3.700		
ARAB EGYPTIAN BANK	28263	104565	3.700	3.700		
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	26700	133500	5.000	5.000		
BUSINESS BANK	250	6870	1.500	1.550		
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	18050	97490	4.000	4.000		
BETT ELMAL SAVING & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	250	780	3.090	3.120		
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	31500	47162	1.510	1.490		
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	52000	88352	1.700	1.700		
BANKS SECTOR						
	517412	1946421	INDEX NUMBER: 157.78			
			CHANGE: +0.10%			
JORDANIAN FRENCH INSURANCE	1350	3283	2.550	2.480		
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	110	2710	2.800	2.840		
AL-NISR AL-ARABY INSURANCE	1200	5930	4.000	5.000		
INSURANCE SECTOR						
	3600	11998	INDEX NUMBER: 138.21			
			CHANGE: +0.15%			
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	4705	7156	1.530	1.520		
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER /NEW	5350	7962	1.490	1.490		
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	454	3013	6.500	6.500		
JORDAN ELECTRICITY	100	97	.930	.970		
JORDAN IRON MINES	4245	2145	2.180	2.100		
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	100	480	4.600	4.600		
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	1050	3200	3.150	3.140		
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	4400	10552	2.390	2.420		
REAL STATE INVESTMENT	1000	1350	1.350	1.350		
JORDAN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION CENTER	6013	7267	1.210	1.200		
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODITY HOTELS	4900	118873	1.030	1.020		
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	18850	56970	3.500	3.490		
JORDANIAN EXPATRIATES INVESTMENT HOLDING	500	722	1.420	1.450		
SERVICES SECTOR						
	96667	236593	INDEX NUMBER: 131.39			
			CHANGE: +0.57%			
ATTABAQI CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	650	832	1.240	1.280		
JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	66856	198606	2.870	2.890		
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	14794	44954	2.940	2.980		
JORDAN POTASH/NEW	750	4258	5.500	5.700		
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1244	11611	9.300	9.340		
THE INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	500	2233	4.600	4.700		
THE JORDANIAN CO. FOR PETROLEUM	28263	64490	5.120	5.200		
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	1000	2700	2.770	2.700		
ARAB CHEMICAL DETERGENTS INDUSTRIES	952	15523	16.000	16.600		
SPINNING & WEAVING	400	1080	2.700	2.700		
RAFIA INDUSTRIES	3550	9703	1.730	1.720		
AL DAHA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	1250	2450	16.000	16.000		
ARAB INDUSTRIAL & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	17750	17725	.970	.020		
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	21050	145646	6.850	6.850		
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	38726	35413	.920	.920		
GENERAL INVESTMENT	6000	19500	3.250	3.250		
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	1850	2533	1.370	1.360		
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	2000	107800	5.390	5.300		
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	5500	9800	1.500	1.520		
JORDAN ROCKWOOD INDUSTRIES	12760	11420	.840	.830		
ARAB INDUSTRIAL & MATCH/TIMCO	12550	67390	5.300	5.300		
NATIONAL CARB & WIRE MANUFACTURING	2000	3925	1.970	1.960		
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	3400	9410	2.780	2.790		
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	500	875	1.750	1.750		
KANTHAR INVESTMENT	8800	37430	4.190	4.210		
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	250	640	2.670	2.560		
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.						
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR						
	266302	890245	INDEX NUMBER: 128.13			
			CHANGE: +0.50%			
GRAND TOTAL	883981	3085256	INDEX NUMBER: 143.60			
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	212359	268912	INDEX NUMBER: 143.60			
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET			CHANGE: +0.08%			

Jordan Loan Guarantee Corporation helps small businesses get credits

By Suleiman Al-Khalidi
Reuter

AMMAN — A Jordanian company, backed by the central bank as its major shareholder, has begun providing novel backing for small business credit traditionally shunned by private banks, officials said Wednesday.

The company's aim is to encourage commercial banks to extend credit facilities to small and medium-sized businesses," Jamal Salah, general manager of Jordan Loan Guarantee Corporation.

The company's strategy was set up recently as a public shareholding company with a seven million dinar (\$9.9 million) capital — three million dinars (\$4.2 million) from the Central Bank of Jordan.

The rest of the capital came from two other govern-

ment bodies, 17 private banks, the chambers of commerce and industry and two insurance companies.

The company superceded a \$5 million U.S. Agency for International Development grant project to Jordan to support small entrepreneurs.

Mr. Salah said Jordan's banks have traditionally been interested in large customers who "were less risky and more profitable."

He said they shied from lending to entrepreneurs and small business who lacked traditional real estate collateral.

Jordan Loan Guarantee

Corporation guarantees cover 75 per cent of loans under 20,000 dinars (\$28,450) and 50 of its upper

loans ceilings.

The company charges 1.5 per cent fees from the loans it guarantees to cover default provisions.

Additional income comes from investments.

Mr. Salah said banks currently tend to give two-year loans and the company's loans extended to a maximum of six years, usually with a year's grace period.

Officials statistics show that 90 per cent of Jordan's total industrial firms are small to medium sized. There are over 16,000 such firms.

Bankers say the company had strong government backing as part of efforts to increase economic growth and cut an official 14 per cent unemployment rate in a peace era with Israel.

The company's strategy

was to help banks to provide venture capital for entrepreneurs in productive sectors, especially women to increase their participation in the workforce.

It has finalised loan

guarantees accord with 17

private banks setting individual quarterly-adjusted

ceiling of 40,000 dinars (\$56,900) loans.

Mr. Salah said the company did not give 100 per cent loans to ensure banks, by taking part of the risk, study the feasibility of small business projects before granting loans.

K.J. leads Suns to final-second victory



Orlando Magic centre Shaquille O'Neal # 32 Bucks # 22 forward Johnny Newman (AFP photo)

22-year coaching career, one short of the 938 posted by Auerbach. The Hawks next play San Antonio Thursday.

Ken Norman had 28 points and 11 rebounds to pace Atlanta.

In Chicago, Pooh Richard-

son scored 21 points as the Los Angeles Clippers scored a 95-92 victory over the Bulls.

The Clippers held the Bulls to one field goal in the final 5:42, snapping a five-game losing streak and winning at Chicago for the first time since January 1979 — 17 games and nearly 16 years.

Toni Kukoc scored 21 points and Scottie Pippen added 19 for the Bulls. Pippen was ejected late in the second quarter for arguing with referee Terry Durham.

In Orlando, the Magic used an 18-2 fourth-quarter burst to remain unbeaten at home with a 103-83 win over the Miami Heat.

Shaquille O'Neal scored 24 points, grabbed 11 rebounds and blocked four shots, and Anfernee Hardaway added 19 points for the Magic, who improved their NBA-best record to 22-5.

At New Jersey, John Starks scored five of his 22 points during a 14-0 third-quarter run and Charles Smith added 20 as the New York Knicks snapped a five-game losing streak, their longest in four years, with a 99-91 win over the Nets.

Starks hit 4-of-13 jumpers.

Patrick Ewing had 16 points and Derek Harper added 14. The Knicks were without forward Charles Oakley, who had toe surgery earlier in the day.

Chris Mullin scored 21 points for New Jersey, which was playing its fifth straight game without leading scorer and rebounder Derrick Coleman (hand injury).

At Detroit, Vin Baker scored 24 points as the Milwaukee Bucks snapped a 10-game road losing streak with a 98-88 wire-to-wire victory over the Pistons.

Terry Mills had 23 points and 11 rebounds for the Pistons, who lost for the fourth straight time at home.

In An Antonio, David Robinson scored 30 points, Chuck Person had 21 and Vinny Del Negro 20 to help the Spurs win their seventh straight, 119-108 over the Charlotte Hornets.

The Spurs are 6-0 since Dennis Rodman returned from his suspension for conduct detrimental to the team.

The Hornets played the entire second half without starting centre Alonzo Mourning, who twisted an ankle. Larry Johnson had 29 points but had 12 rebounds for Charlotte.

The Spurs are 6-0 since Dennis Rodman returned from his suspension for conduct detrimental to the team.

The Hornets played the entire second half without starting centre Alonzo Mourning, who twisted an ankle. Larry Johnson had 29 points but had 12 rebounds for Charlotte.

In Sacramento, Spud Webb's fadeaway jumper with two seconds remaining lifted the Kings to 102-101 triumph over the Portland Trail Blazers.

Mitch Richmond had 30 points and Olden Polynice scored 21 for the Kings.

At Golden State, Tom Gugliotta and Tim Hardaway had 20 points each to lead seven Warriors in double figures in a 129-105 rout of the Los Angeles Lakers.

Hardaway had 15 assists for the Warriors, who led all the way and have won two straight after a 10-game losing streak.

Cedric Ceballos led the Lakers with 24 points.

In Denver, Rick Smits scored a season-high 33 points and grabbed 14 rebounds to lead the Indiana Pacers to a 95-91 win over the Nuggets.

Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf had 23 points to lead Denver.

RESULTS

Milwaukee	98	Detroit	88
New York	99	New Jersey	91
Orlando	103	Miami	83
LA Clippers	95	Chicago	92
Phoenix	119	Dallas	118
Houston	105	Atlanta	93
San Antonio	119	Charlotte	108
Indiana	95	Denver	91
Golden State	129	LA Lakers	105
Sacramento	102	Portland	101

Debut blunder hands Forest victory

LONDON (AP)— Norwich goalkeeper Andy Marshall made one mistake in an otherwise brilliant debut performance when his poor positioning allowed Norwegian Lars Bohinen to score direct from a corner to give Nottingham Forest a 1-0 victory at the City Ground Tuesday.

Marshall was pressed into action in the opening minutes of a game that Forest dominated throughout after Bryan Gunn was stretched off with a dislocated ankle.

Apart from that one fatal error five minutes after the break when he was left flapping in no-man's land as Bohinen's corner swung in at the back post, the young keeper kept his side in the game with a string of excellent saves, including one to keep out a free-kick swerving free-kick from Stuart Pearce.

While fourth-placed Forest can travel to West Ham Saturday confident of a third victory in four games, Norwich will have to show far greater enterprise if they are to avoid a third consecutive defeat when they entertain Newcastle.

Earlier in the day Tottenham Hotspur took their unbeaten run to seven games with a 3-0 draw against London rivals Crystal Palace but gave their fans little to cheer in a largely dreary encounter that yielded only a handful of goal opportunities.

Palace keeper Nigel Martyn denied Spurs their best chance in the game when he produced a save of the highest quality to turn David Hawells' shot over the bar.

It was a frustrating afternoon for Tottenham, who were unable to build on Monday's 2-0 win at Norwich, but it was another game which highlighted their defensive improvement under manager Gerry Francis.

Spurs have now kept clean sheets in three successive games — a feat they



Liverpool's Robbie Fowler stretches full length to shoot whilst Leicester City's Kevin Peake dives to save the shot (AFP photo)



Manchester United's Nicky Butt tumbles after colliding with Chelsea's Andy Myers (left) (AFP photo)

Premier League Standings

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Blackburn	20	14	4	2	44	16	46
Manchester United	20	14	2	4	39	16	44
Newcastle	20	11	6	3	39	22	39
Nottingham Forest	21	11	6	4	34	26	39
Liverpool	20	10	6	4	36	19	36
Leeds	20	9	5	6	29	25	32
Norwich	21	8	6	7	19	18	30
Tottenham	21	8	6	7	34	34	30
Chelsea	20	8	4	8	28	26	28
Manchester City	20	5	4	11	31	34	28
Arsenal	20	6	7	7	23	22	25
Coventry	20	6	7	7	20	29	25
Wimbledon	20	7	4	9	24	35	25
Southampton	20	6	6	8	29	34	24
Sheffield Wednesday	21	6	6	9	23	29	24
Crystal Palace	20	5	8	7	15	20	23
Queen's Park Rangers	20	6	5	9	29	35	23
West Ham	20	6	4	10	16	22	22
Everton	20	4	7	9	16	28	19
Asian Villa	20	3	8	9	22	31	17
Leicester	20	3	5	12	20	35	14
Ipswich	20	3	4	13	20	40	13

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Senna crash hearing delayed

ROME (AFP)—Court hearings at Bologna into former world motor racing champion Ayrton Senna's death at the San Marino Grand Prix on May 1st have been postponed to January. A court official said the accident investigators had yet to complete their findings. He would not say whether anyone would be charged. The Brazilian was killed when his Williams rammed a wall at 200mph.

Search underway for French yachtswoman

SYDNEY (AFP)—Organisers of the BOC solo round the world yacht race initiated a search and rescue operation off the South Australian coast for French yachtswoman Isabelle Autissier Thursday. Organisers said that the emergency beacon on Autissier's yacht, Ecureuil Poitou Charantes II, the one-time leader of the BOC race, were triggered at 1745 AEDT (0045 GMT). The race communications headquarters in Charleston, South Carolina, has begun emergency communication procedures, but has not made contact with the experienced French sailor. At last report, Autissier was about 920 nautical miles southeast of the South Australian coast.

Mexico enters World Cup race

ZURICH (AFP)—Mexico have made a bid to hold the 2002 World Cup, FIFA said Wednesday. Japan and South Korea had been fighting a two-horse race for the finals which FIFA president Joao Havelange has said should go to Asia. However Mexico, who hosted two successful tournaments in 1970 and 1986, might upset the running. The three countries have until Feb. 28 to confirm their bids after seeing the conditions laid down by FIFA, who will make their decision in June, 1996.

Yugoslavs make Argentina struggle

Buenos Aires (AFP)—Argentina, rebuilding slowly under new coach Daniel Passarella, struggled to beat Yugoslavia 1-0 in a friendly football international Tuesday. Sebastian Ramberg scored a lucky 21st minute goal when fellow striker Ariel Ortega's mishit centre caught the Yugoslav defence unawares. But Yugoslav goalkeeper Goran Pandurovic was good enough anything Passarella's side could muster and the Yugoslavs, prompted by Dragan Stojkovic in midfield, had the better of the second half. Yugoslavia were beaten 2-0 in Brazil last week in their first international for nearly three years following the lifting of a U.N. sporting embargo.

"A PLACE IN TIME"

94 / 95

ENJOY NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA DINNER
AT KAN ZAMAN

To The Sounds Of The ASIA Band

Ticket Price JD 30.000

Many Prizes To Be Won

For reservation please call :
666533 - 668606 - 08591428 - 08591478

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

sports

New York Giants' David Meggett (left) escapes a tackle attempt from Philadelphia Eagles' Bill Romanowski in their NFL game. Giants won 16-13.

The year began and ended with Dallas

NEW YORK (AP) — The year began just like 1993, with the Dallas Cowboys beating the Buffalo Bills handily in the Super Bowl, a 31-13 victory that marked Buffalo's record fourth straight loss in the championship game of the American National Football League.

It ended with Dallas in position to become the first team ever to win three straight Super Bowls. But they were in shaky position, for this was the season of the San Francisco 49ers, who were really the only team that took advantage of the new salary cap instead of moaning about it.

In fact, the cap led to total parity except for those two teams at the top, San Francisco, which finished the regular season 13-3 and Dallas, which finished 12-4, losing two of its last three and entering the playoffs with Emmitt Smith nursing a sore hamstring.

Everyone else. For the first time ever, four teams from one division, the NFC Central, made the playoffs — Minnesota, Green Bay, Detroit and Chicago, but the Vikings won at 10-6 and the others were 9-7, a typical record in year in which mediocrity prevailed.

And the Bears and Packers edged another 9-7 team, New York Giants, in a

breakers. In the AFC, Pittsburgh, at 12-4, had the best record, but went into the playoffs with a less-than-formidable offense quarterbacked by Neil O'Donnell and Buffalo, the four-time Super Bowl loser, missed the playoffs and finished 7-9.

The surprises? New England, which finished 10-6 in Bill Parcells' second year, winning its final seven games and Cleveland, at 11-5. The other playoff teams were AFC East champion Miami (10-6) and San Diego (11-5) in the West with Kansas City (9-7) sneaking in as a wildcard with Joe Montana ahead of the Los Angeles Raiders (9-7) the AFC pre-season favourite.

But San Francisco was dominant. Even as teams were being forced to cut veterans — the most prominent being Phil Simms of the Giants — the 49ers were signing them, often giving them minimum salaries, then adding on incentives that would be counted against future caps.

Still, the Niners had to overcome the injury-caused loss of four of the five starting offensive linemen early in the season. They lost in Kansas City in their first meeting with Joe Montana on the other side of the ball, then were bumbled 40-8 in a game in which coach George Seifert

lifed Steve Young in the middle of a series.

That was the turning point. Young exploded at Seifert and the 49ers never lost again as Young had his best season and finally got on track with Jerry Rice. Sanders, who signed for \$1 million after the American Major League Baseball season was officially ended by a players strike, brought a new dimension to the defense, bringing three interceptions back for touchdowns and allowing Merlin Hanks to switch from cornerback to safety, where Hanks had a Pro Bowl season.

The Niners won their next 10, averaging 36 points a game in the process, before to Minnesota in a finale that was meaningless to them. Their 21-14 victory over Dallas at Candlestick on Nov. 13 — Hanks had three interceptions — gave them the tiebreaker for home field in the playoffs and they just about clinched it when the Cowboys lost at home to Cleveland 19-14 on Dec. 10.

On a league-wide basis, rule changes and adaptations designed to increase scoring worked, although it might have been at the expense of the officiating — three seemed to be a record number of disputed calls this season.

Rice set an NFL record for touch downs in a career in the first week of the season when

he scored three times, to bring his total to 127 in 10 seasons, one ahead of Jim Brown. Rice finished with 15 TDs for the year, giving him 120 while Young played long enough against Minnesota to complete 12 of 13, breaking Joe Montana's NFL record for quarterback rating.

Offence worked for other receivers, too.

Minnesota's Cris Carter finished with 122 receptions, 10 more than the old mark of 112 by Sterling Sharpe, and Rice had 112 catches, the best of his brilliant career.

Terance Mathis of Atlanta, New York jets discard, caught 111, 18 more than he had in all of his four seasons in New York.

It also was a year in which the drought of young quarterbacks seemed to be abating.

While Young, Dan Marino, Joe Montana, John Elway and the rest of the over-30 gang continued to play well, some younger stars began to emerge, led by New England's Drew Bledsoe, in his second season and Green Bay's Brett Favre, in his fourth, Favre's 33 TD passes were second in the league's to Young ANF he threw just 14 interceptions.

Behind them were the likes of Craig Erickson of Tampa and Dave Brown of the Giants, who showed signs of turning into first-rate quarterbacks.

Ex-Soviet weightlifting dominance threatened

ISTANBUL (R) — War and strife plus a dire shortage of cash threaten the supremacy of the former Soviet republics who dominated the men's categories in the World Weightlifting championships.

Turkey, who finished second with a team comprising mainly of ethnic Turks from Bulgaria, were the only team in the top six who did not come from former Communist bloc nations.

But the ex-Soviet supremacy is under threat on at least two fronts.

The area is a hotbed of strife and coaches from Georgia advise journalists to speak at length to their competitors as they might not live to see another championship.

Olympic champion Kakhi Kakhiashvili left Georgia two months ago and became a late entry for Greece in the 91-kg category while the two best-known Australians, Nic Vlad in the 180-kg category and Stefan Botev in the over-180 kg division, are from Romania and Bulgaria respectively.

An even greater enemy for the former Communist nations could be economics.

"Under Communism sport had all the money it needed," said Bulgaria's team coach Yorgen Ivanov. "Now we have to rely on private sponsors and there is not much money to go round."

"The Bulgarian team used to train together for 11 months a year, now we are lucky if they can get together for five."

Ironically, Bulgaria were pushed into third place with a one point deficit by Turkey's overwhelmingly ex-Bulgarian squad.

The Ukrainian team, much weaker than last year's world championship squad, have found a wealthy sponsor in former super-heavyweight Anatoli Pisarenko, who set up business in the United States at the end of his sporting career.

But 108-kg champion Timur Taimazov still felt the need for his own coach and sponsor in wrestler-turned businessman Viktor Ardishev.

He said most cases are investigated within four to six weeks.

Time is drawing short to save the 1995 season since the players have said they will remain on strike while challenging the owners' action in the courts.

The owners plan to open training camps and start the

season with replacement players if necessary. However, the 28 club owners may not stand united.

Baltimore Orioles owner Peter Angelos, who built much of his law practice representing trade unions, said Monday he doesn't think the rest of the owners can force him to field a team of replacement players.

Jordan Soccer League Hussein, Ramtha clash today as Wihsdat regain lead

By Aleen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The battle for the first division soccer crown has heated up following Al Wihsdat's return to the top at the end of the past week. Therefore, the upcoming matches which kick off Thursday will be decisive, especially Al Hussein's clash with Al Ramtha.

Turkey, who finished second with a team comprising mainly of ethnic Turks from Bulgaria, were the only team in the top six who did not come from former Communist bloc nations.

But the ex-Soviet supremacy is under threat on at least two fronts.

The area is a hotbed of strife and coaches from Georgia advise journalists to speak at length to their competitors as they might not live to see another championship.

Olympic champion Kakhi Kakhiashvili left Georgia two months ago and became a late entry for Greece in the 91-kg category while the two best-known Australians, Nic Vlad in the 180-kg category and Stefan Botev in the over-180 kg division, are from Romania and Bulgaria respectively.

An even greater enemy for the former Communist nations could be economics.

"Under Communism sport had all the money it needed," said Bulgaria's team coach Yorgen Ivanov. "Now we have to rely on private sponsors and there is not much money to go round."

"The Bulgarian team used to train together for 11 months a year, now we are lucky if they can get together for five."

Ironically, Bulgaria were pushed into third place with a one point deficit by Turkey's overwhelmingly ex-Bulgarian squad.

The Ukrainian team, much weaker than last year's world championship squad, have found a wealthy sponsor in former super-heavyweight Anatoli Pisarenko, who set up business in the United States at the end of his sporting career.

But 108-kg champion Timur Taimazov still felt the need for his own coach and sponsor in wrestler-turned businessman Viktor Ardishev.

He said most cases are investigated within four to six weeks.

Time is drawing short to save the 1995 season since the players have said they will remain on strike while challenging the owners' action in the courts.

The owners plan to open training camps and start the

tained 6th place after a 2-0 win over last-placed Al Jeel.

Al Wihsdat vs. Shabab Al Hussein: Jihad Abdul Munib stunned Shabab Al Hussein early in the match when he netted the match's sole goal from a header in the 4th minute.

Shabab Al Hussein put up a big effort to equalise and managed to hold off the former champions' attacks.

Kufraoum vs. Hussein: Kufraoum's win was very important as they tied with Al Ahli and further improved their record as the only newcomer not threatened by relegation.

Munib Gharabieh scored Al Hussein's only goal from a header in the 33rd minute. Kufraoum's top striker Yousef Obaidat equalised in the 49th minute and added the winning goal in the 75th minute.

Al Ahli vs. Jeel: Al Ahli took an important step towards maintaining a half-way standing when they defeated last-placed Al Jeel 2-0.

Striker Husam Hammash opened scoring early when he stunned Al Jeel in the 2nd minute. The second goal was scored by Amer Wali in the 84th minute.

Arabi vs. Qadissieh: Both teams are near the relegation zone and need to improve their record to avoid that prospect. Their goalless draw enabled them to maintain their standings going into the 17th week.

Standings after 16th week

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Wihsdat	16	11	5	—	18	3	27
Hussein	16	12	2	2	42	16	26
Ramtha	16	10	5	1	33	10	25
Faisali	16	7	7	2	25	9	21
Jazireh	16	7	4	5	21	18	18
Ahli	16	6	5	5	22	20	17
Kufraoum	16	8	1	7	27	27	17
Arabi	16	5	4	7	18	26	14
Qadissieh	16	4	5	7	18	22	13
Karmel	16	1	4	11	12	38	6
Shabab Al Hussein	16	1	3	12	17	37	5
Jeel	16	1	1	14	10	37	3

Benetton rule out signing Mansell

ROME (R) — Former formula one world champion Nigel Mansell will not be joining Benetton next season.

his team in the coming season. He said it would be too expensive to hire a driver of Mansell's calibre alongside Schumacher.

"We will name our drivers for next season at the end of January but Nigel Mansell will not be one of them," team president Alessandro Benetton told the *Gazzetta dello Sport* in an interview published Wednesday.

Benetton said Briton Johnny Herbert was almost certain to partner world champion Michael Schumacher in

With its two branches in Abdali and the Seventh Circle.

We receive fresh fish around the week.

Abdali: Police Academy Street, Tel. 687772
Seventh Circle: Abdullah Ghosheh Street/behind Ramada Hotel, Tel. 826906

**Under the Patronage of HRH Prince Ra'ad Bin Zeid
Al-Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped
in cooperation with**

The British Council

presents



Towards Humanity

A concert with the British flautist

Wissam Boustany and pianist

The Programme includes pieces by Donizetti, Doppler, Chopin, Heath, Boustany and Franck.

Date : Wednesday, 4 January

Time : 8pm

Location : Royal Cultural Centre

Price : 8 JD

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT: The Royal Cultural Centre • The British Council • Marriott Hotel.

Thanks to our special sponsor **Marriott**.

The owners' player relations committee and the Major League Baseball Players Association filed their complaints with the National Labour Relations Board (NLRB) in New York.

Club owners officially declared an impasse in the baseball negotiations and implemented their salary cap as of 12:01 a.m. last Friday.

The players went on strike last August 12 as negotiations over a new contract with the league founders on the salary cap issue, and the owners cancelled the rest of the season — along with the playoffs and World Series — September 14.

In its complaint, the owners charged that the union "refused to negotiate wages on a collective basis, unlawfully insisted on the individual negotiation of wages and salary arbitration, engaged in surface bargaining and otherwise evidenced bad faith in the exercise of its collective bargaining obligations."

The union alleged that the owners never intended to sign a contract and were always intent on establishing a salary cap.

"We have been advised by the board that the case will be given prompt consideration," union head Donald Fehr said in a prepared statement.

"From the beginning, the clubs have had one and only one thought in mind, forcing us to give up the players'

PEKING RESTAURANTS

MEMBER #
Invites you to
The 1995 New Year's
Eve Festivity

Tel. 680250 or 680258
Shemeshan

New Year's Eve
Gala dinner
Masquerade
at the
ROZENA INN
For reservations
Tel.: 613572/630571

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
An investment company is seeking to employ capable professionals in the following areas:
1. Production Manager
Minimum 5 years experience in the field of textiles and garment manufacturing industry.
Should have leadership skills and ability to manage a workforce exceeding three hundred people.
Proficiency in English language and college diploma required.
2. Executive Secretary
Minimum 5 years experience, proficiency in English language and full competency with computer usage.
3. Accountant
Minimum degree B.A.-B.Sc in accounting with at least 3 years experience. Proficiency in English language & computer use in both Arabic and English.
All those interested should submit a handwritten request in English along with personal CV and telephone number to:
P.O.Box 7245
Amman / Jordan

Selected applicants will be contacted for interviews

anted
accord
ns to
s and
res."
sever
ness
ard to
nabin
bank
Arab
of the
it the
secured
t. But,
ources.
ed to
group
suff
ly plig
es to h
n'
tive

Jordan yet to receive Israeli nomination of ambassador

Bentsur rejects reports of Jordan voicing disappointment over Israeli attitude

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian government has not received any official nomination of an Israeli ambassador to Jordan and Amman believes that the Israeli government has not reached a final decision on the issue, official sources said Wednesday.

The sources, requesting anonymity, were commenting on an Israeli newspaper report that Jordan had made its "displeasure" known to Israel over the planned nomination of Ephraim Halevy, deputy head of the Mossad secret service, as Israeli ambassador to the Kingdom.

"How could the government make a comment on a nomination which has not been received?" said one source. "Jordan would make its views known as and when it receives an official nomination through the proper channels."

Following the peace treaty signed on Oct. 26, Jordan and Israel opened embassies in Tel Aviv and Amman respectively on Dec. 11. Both missions are headed at charge d'affaires level and operate out of hotels pending suitable alternate premises.

Jordan has named Marwan Muasher, former spokesman of the peace negotiating team with Israel, as its ambassador to the Jewish state. But Dr. Muasher is not expected to assume the post until Israel

completes its process of naming an ambassador and securing Jordanian approval of the nomination.

Several names, including those of outgoing Chief of Staff Ehud Barak and foreign ministry official Yossi Gal, have been floating in the Israeli press as possible nominees to take up the first Israeli ambassadorship to Jordan.

Israeli reports said last month that Gen. Barak, who leaves office in the new year, had turned down the appointment. However, it was never confirmed that Gen. Barak was indeed considered for the post. In any event, that left Mr. Halevy and Mr. Gal in the field, at least officially.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was reported to be supporting Mr. Halevy for the post while Foreign Minister Shimon Peres backed career diplomat Gal, who, for some time, served as Dr. Muasher's counterpart during the peace negotiations.

Jordan's reported displeasure over the planned Halevy nomination, according to the Haaretz newspaper, stemmed from the fact that he headed the Mossad, an establishment known for its clandestine activities and role in assassination of leading Palestinian figures.

Mr. Halevy's ambassadorship in Amman would only "feed anti-Israeli sentiments" in Jordan, Haaretz said Tuesday.

The newspaper did not

make clear when and how Jordan had conveyed its "displeasure" to Israel, but it implied that it came during a meeting between Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Israeli foreign ministry deputy director-general Eytan Bentsur, who visited Amman on Sunday.

Haaretz said Dr. Majali told Mr. Bentsur that Jordanians were complaining that they were not seeing the fruits of peace. As an example, Dr. Majali was reported to have told Mr. Bentsur that many firms that expected increased business with Israelis coming to Jordan since the peace treaty were seeing the visitors spending little, if any at all, money in the field.

Tour operators confirmed the complaints. "Israelis bring their own food when they come to Jordan," said one tour operator. "It is strange though," he added, "that food from store shelves cost less in Jordan than across the border."

The Jerusalem Post reports: Reports of Jordanian government disaffection with the consequences of the peace treaty with Israel are "inaccurate," Mr. Bentsur said Tuesday.

Several newspapers reported that during the meeting between Bentsur and Jordanian Prime Minister Majali, Dr. Majali had said Jordan was "extremely disappointed" with the Israeli

(Continued on page 7)

Beirut bombing suspect said to be Israeli agent

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese authorities named the main suspect in last week's car-bomb which killed three people in Beirut and said he worked for the Israeli intelligence service Mossad, state-run television said on Wednesday.

Tele Liban, quoting an army statement, said Ahmad Hallaq was the main suspect in the Dec. 21 blast in the Beirut bastion of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God) group, which is fighting Israeli troops in South Lebanon.

The statement said Mr. Hallaq, recruited in July 1993 by a Mossad officer named Dan "who is active in Cyprus," had set off by remote control the car bomb which killed two Hezbollah members and a civilian and wounded 11 people.

One of the dead, Fuad Moughniyeh, was the brother of Lebanon's most wanted hostage-taker of the 1980s, Imad Moughniyeh. Lebanese officials and Hezbollah accused Israel of being behind the blast.

Lebanon's interior minister said earlier on Wednesday that Lebanese authorities had arrested several people suspected of involvement in the bombing.

"The main leads into the

Israel to return last antiquities to Egypt

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel said on Wednesday it was handing back to Egypt some 600 cartons full of antiquities, the last of the finds it promised to return from Israel's 15-year occupation of the Sinai peninsula.

Amir Drori, head of the Israel antiquities authority, said the finds would be shipped to Egypt on Thursday. The agreement to return the antiquities was reached in January 1993 after years of negotiation following the 1979 Israel-Egypt peace treaty.

The investigation is progressing quickly and its results will be revealed in the coming few days," Mr. Murr added.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has said the answer to who was behind the car bomb rested not with him but in Lebanon.

Judicial sources confirmed a report by the Beirut daily Al Safir on Wednesday that among those arrested in connection with the bombing was the wife of the ring leader and that he works for Mossad.

"Yes, the newspaper report is accurate. The main suspect works for Mossad and his remains at large but his wife has been arrested," one source told Reuters.

Al Safir, quoting "well-informed official sources," said some ring members had planned the Beirut bombing at a meeting with a top Mossad officer in Cyprus.

"The suspects' confessions... revealed that Mossad was involved 100 per cent (in the bombing) from the beginning to the end," the paper reported.

Syria insists on reciprocal arrangements with Israel

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Damascus insisted Wednesday that Israeli-Syrian security arrangements should be balanced after an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, rejecting the Jewish state's latest security demands.

"It is necessary to arrange for reciprocal and balanced security measures on both sides of the Golan line after a total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and South Lebanon," the government newspaper Tishrin said.

The Syrian-Israeli talks are stalled over the scope and timing of an Israeli withdrawal from the strategic Golan Heights, seized in the 1967 Middle East war, and over the type of peaceful relations to be established.

Syria also says it will not sign a peace deal unless Israel withdraws from its self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

"Israeli security demands are completely rejected. Syria cannot be dragged into discussing security fears which Israel is using as a pretext to cover up expansionist aims," Tishrin said.

Syria Sunday announced its rejection of an Israeli demand to keep observation

troop withdrawal.

Israeli and Syrian military officials held talks in Washington Thursday and Friday to pave the way for a resumption of formal negotiations suspended since the Feb. 25 Hebron mosque massacre.

Tishrin said that "in the age of missiles, sophisticated weapons and advanced planes, security and geographical hindrances have no value."

"Peace would be worthless if the Golan were not returned to its homeland, if its children did not go back home, if the Israeli settlements were not dismantled and its settlers did not leave the Golan."

Nearly 14,000 Israelis live in 32 settlements on the Golan, which was "annexed" in 1981.

"Syria fights with honour when war is imposed, and makes peace with honour when it is offered a just and comprehensive peace," Tishrin said.

According to Yossi Olmert, a researcher at Israel's Hebrew University who said he had contacted Syrian experts, Israel has concluded that "it will not reach peace with Syria with-



PALESTINIAN PROTEST: A Palestinian woman shows her resignation as an Israeli worker walks away with up-rooted olive trees planted Monday on a hillside south of Bethlehem on the West Bank, where villagers from El Khader and Israel Peace Now activists tried to prevent Israeli settlers from starting construction to enlarge the

Jewish settlement of Ephrata. Palestinians say that the land belongs to them for generations, while settlers insist that the land is owned by the Israeli state. Five people were injured and 45 arrested on Tuesday as security forces dispersed hundreds of protesters from the site (see related story on page 2) (AFP photo)

Pope condemns Algeria killings, calls for dialogue

VATICAN CITY (Agencies)

— Pope John Paul condemned the killing of four Roman Catholic priests in Algeria as an act of barbarity on Wednesday and called for dialogue between the military-backed government and Islamic fundamentalists.

"I pray to God that the sacrifice of the four priests will be a seed of reconciliation and peace and will induce everyone to opt for dialogue and mutual understanding, without which there is no future for a truly human society," the Pope said.

He told pilgrims at his weekly general audience that "the barbaric assassination" of the clerics, three Frenchmen and a Belgian, had brought sadness to Christians.

He said he was close to the small Catholic community in Algeria, which he called a "martyred country."

The four priests, members of the order of the White Fathers, were shot dead on Tuesday in their residence in Tizi-Ouzou, 110 kilometres east of the capital Algiers.

The official Algerian news agency APS has blamed Islamic fundamentalist guerrillas for the killings, carried out less than 24 hours after French commandos killed four Algerian guerrillas who

had hijacked an Air France airliner.

The latest deaths brought to eight the number of priests and nuns among the 74 foreigners killed in Algeria since the Islamic Armed Group (GIA) ordered 47 foreigners more than year ago to leave the country or face death.

Algeria has been in turmoil

since the government called off a 1991 general election which fundamentalists were poised to win. About 20,000 Algerians have since died in the civil strife.

The White Fathers named the French priests as Jean-Marie Chevillard, 65, Alain Denizier, 55, and Christian Chesse, 36. The order said the Belgian was Charles Decker, 50.

It said they were shot to death by an armed band that broke into the priests' house.

No group has claimed responsibility for the killings.

Algerian press reports said

the six gunmen who killed the clerics probably intended to kidnap them.

Four of the attackers,

armed with Kalashnikovs and carrying walkie-talkies, dressed up as policemen in order to get into the presbytery in a quiet area of Tizi Ouzou.

Witnesses cited in the Algerian press said.

The suggestion that the

militants intended to kidnap the priests was backed by reports that two accomplices were waiting outside the mission in a van intended to be used in the abduction, reports said Wednesday.

After breaking up the mission's employer's and the group of supplicants, the killers burst into the office of Chevillard and ordered him to follow to the police station.

Realising that it was a trap, Chevillard started shouting, was pulled out into a courtyard and shot dead. His three fellow missionaries were shot as they were trying to escape.

The Algerian press meanwhile led its coverage Wednesday with attacks on French criticisms of the Algerian government and doubts over the French handling of the plane hijacking.

The pro-government daily L'Authentique suggested that France might in some way have manipulated the hijacking for its own political purposes.

There were several "shady aspects" to the affair which suggested that the seizure of the aircraft, its flight to France and the final seizure by French forces was not just "a simple hijacking," the paper said.

Israeli and SLA artillery and tanks opened up on Braachit, nearby Shaqra village and surrounding hills, they said. Five houses in Braachit were damaged in the retaliatory shelling.

Israelis rocket Lebanese house

BRAACHIT, Lebanon (R)

— An Israeli helicopter gunship rocketed a house in a South Lebanon village, wounding two young boys, witnesses said on Wednesday.

Villagers told a Reuter reporter that two rockets fired by the helicopter hit the house of a local official of the Shi'ite Muslim Amal movement in Braachit village north of Israel's occupation zone in South Lebanon.

Two unexploded rockets were dismantled by U.N. peacekeepers.

It was the 31st Israeli air raid into Lebanon this year.

Amal said the attack on the official's house took place just before midnight after its fighters attacked Israel's South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia allies on the edge of the zone. No casualties were reported in the attacks.

Security sources said Amal guerrillas fired Katyusha rockets, mortar bombs and machine-guns at three SLA posts.

Israeli and SLA artillery and tanks opened up on Braachit, nearby Shaqra village and surrounding hills, they said. Five houses in Braachit were damaged in the retaliatory shelling.

Study: women with AIDS die sooner than men

CHICAGO (R) — Women suffering from AIDS have shorter survival rates than men and are particularly susceptible to pneumonia, a prime killer of infected victims, a study published Tuesday said. The increased risk of AIDS-related pneumonia among women may be due to their having poorer access to health care, lower socioeconomic status and less social support than infected men, the researchers said. The University of Minneapolis study, which followed over a 15-month interval 768 women and 3,779 men from 17 health centres around the United States, found the deadly disease progresses at similar rates in men and women from the time of initial infection with the virus. "Compared with men, HIV-infected women in the study were at increased risk of death, but not disease progression," author Sandra Melnick wrote in the Journal of the American Medical Association. The study found that women with AIDS were 1.33 times more at risk of dying than men with the disease and 1.38 times more likely to develop bacterial pneumonia. Women with a history of intravenous drug use, for whom shared needles can spread the infection, were at a substantially greater risk than similarly infected men of contracting the deadly pneumonia. But infected women were at about the same risk as men in having the disease progress and weaken their immune systems. Women were also found to be much less at risk than men of developing kaposi's sarcoma, a common cancer among AIDS victims.

Spain to spend \$150 million on Prado renovation

MADRID (AP) — The Spanish government Tuesday announced it was budgeting 20 billion pesetas (\$150 million) for renovation of the Prado Museum here. An international jury will select the best project for modernizing and enlarging the museum, known for its Velazquez paintings, and which welcomes 1.5 million visitors each year, Culture Minister Carmen Albarez said. The

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bazargan to seek medical treatment abroad

TEHRAN (AFP) — Former Iranian Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan is to travel abroad shortly for medical treatment, his relatives said Wednesday. Mr. Bazargan, 88, has been suffering from heart problems since early Dec. and his physicians have ruled out an operation for him in Iran because of his advanced age. Mr. Bazargan, who heads the opposition Freedom Movement Party (FMP), might visit the United States, the sources said. The FMP, a moderate Islamic movement founded in 1961, is among the few opposition groups tolerated in Iran. Mr. Bazargan headed the first provisional government after the 1979 Islamic revolution, but he was ousted for espousing liberal ideas.

Kurds say factional fighting is almost over

ANKARA (R) — Two rival Kurdish guerrilla groups in northern Iraq have agreed to a ceasefire and almost ended more than a week of factional fighting, an Iraqi Kurdish spokesman said on Wednesday. Shazad Saib, the Ankara representative of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), said the agreement, between his faction and the opposing Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), was reached on Tuesday in the city of Erbil. "There are only isolated cases of fighting left. It was never that serious anyway," he told Reuters. Iraqi official newspapers said on Wednesday more than 200 people had died in the clashes and that the residents of Erbil had fled. The Al Jumhuriya daily described the summer resort of Salahuddin in the Erbil area as "a city of ghosts." Mr. Saib said Salahuddin was free from fighting but that opposing groups of guerrillas had clashed on Tuesday near two towns on the road to Erbil. "There was fighting around Mulla Omar and Bahrika," he said. Mr. Saib could give no casualty figures.

The Israeli authority officially applied to the Egyptian authorities to lend Israel 24 objects containing Hebrew inscriptions. These include third-century Byzantine ceramic oil lamps with Jewish candelabra — menorah — imprints.

Nearly 14,000 Israelis live in 32 settlements on the Golan, which was "annexed" in 1981.

Mr. Noureddin said the objects would first be exhibited to the Egyptian public at museums, but did not rule out an eventual loan.

"I can understand it is emotionally important to you to keep the menorahs, but that's not how it goes," Mr. Noureddin said. "We never loaned anything long-term to another country, but we are ready to consider."

The Egyptian delegates stressed their readiness for

some scientific cooperation

Iran finds remains of 100 soldiers

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has found the remains of 100 of its soldiers and militiamen killed in the 1980-1988 war against Iraq, the official news agency IRNA reported Wednesday. The corpses were discovered in the Mehran region of Ilam province neighbouring Iraq, it said. About 50 of them have yet to be identified. Since 1988, Iran has found the remains of around 3,000 of its soldiers and war, which claimed hundreds of thousands of lives; Tehran says as many as 32,000 Iranians

Romania police seek Moldovan in killing

BUCHAREST (R) — Romanian police said on Wednesday they had issued a warrant for the arrest of a 23-year-old Moldovan for the killing of an Iranian, run through with a sword in Bucharest last month. Police said Andrei Costas was being sought for the murder of Mohammad Ali Assadi, an Iranian resident in Romania. "We have a warrant issued for Costas's arrest but